Foreign
Broadcast
Information
Service
ANNIVERSARY
1941 - 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-219
Wednesday
13 November 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-219

CONTENTS

13 November 1991

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Madrid Talks

'Arafat Intervenes in 'Urayqat 'Kufiyah Crisis' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Nov]* 1
Faysal al-Husayni on Significance of Madrid *[Rome LA REPUBBLICA 7 Nov]* 1
Palestinian Team Chief on Ending Arab Boycott *[Milan L'UNITA 5 Nov]* 2
Israel's Netanyahu Says 'Secret' Talks Held *[Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA 3 Nov]* 2
Israeli Negotiator Evaluates Preliminary Talks *[Milan L'UNITA 4 Nov]* 4

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Hesitant To Finance Projects in Syria, Egypt *[Amman Radio]* 4
Arab Maghreb Foreign Ministers Meet 11-12 Nov *[MAP]* 4
    Discuss Coordination Issues *[JANA]* 5

Islamic Affairs

ICO Official Discusses Mideast Peace Conference *[Jakarta ANTARA]* 5
ICO Condemns Desecration of Mosque in India *[SPA]* 5
ICO Scientific, Technical Committee Meets *[Tehran Radio]* 6

Palestinian Affairs

Dialogue With U.S. To Resume; Delegation Formed *[Jerusalem AL-MANAR 11 Nov]* 6
Madrid Delegates Conduct Seminars in Territories *[Jerusalem TV]* 6
Al-Husayni, al-Maliki Debate at Bethlehem University *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
PLO, Palestinians Discussing Provisional Government *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 13 Nov]* 7
'Abd al-Shafi Assesses Madrid Talks *[Jerusalem AL-FAJR 11 Nov]* 7
Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian 'Cantons' Proposed *[London AL-HAYAH 8 Nov]* 8
Abu-'Ayyash on Madrid, Peace Process *[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ 12 Nov]* 10
Dynamics of Palestinian Political Scene Analyzed *['AL HAMISHMAR 12 Nov]* 10
Hawatimah Asserts DFLP Not Against Conference *[Amman JORDAN TIMES 9 Nov]* 13
Abu-'Ali Mustafa Expected To Succeed Habash *[Beirut AL-SHIRA'A 11 Nov]* 13
Syria Reportedly To Reopen 3 Fatah Offices *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 13 Nov]* 13

South Asian Regional Affairs

Premadasa, 3 SAARC Leaders Continue Talks 13
    Speeches Given at Banquet *[Colombo International]* 13
    Nawaz Sharif Meets SAARC Counterparts *[Islamabad Radio]* 14
Premadasa, Sharif, Zia Talks Detailed *[Colombo International]* 15
    Leaders Seek SAARC Rule Changes *[Delhi Radio]* 16
    Nawaz Sharif Seeks December SAARC Summit *[Islamabad Radio]* 16
    Summit Postponement 'Unfortunate' Event *[Dhaka Radio]* 17

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

FIS Leader on 'Illegal' Aspects of Elections *[Algiers TV]* 18
    FIS Participation Undecided *[Algiers Radio]* 18

Egypt

- Mubarak Tells Deputies No 'Crisis' With Libya *[MENA]* 19
- Mubarak Receives Saudi Minister, Fahd Message *[Cairo Radio]* 19
- Editorials, Columnists on Madrid Talks, Israel 19
  - Arabs Warned About 'Marginal Issues' *[AL-AKHBAR 4 Nov]* 19
  - Debate on Madrid, Open Society Urged *[AL-AKHBAR 6 Nov]* 20
  - Israeli, Syrian Behavior Criticized *[AL-AHRAM 5 Nov]* 20
  - Opposition to Madrid Condemned *[Cairo Radio]* 21
  - Israeli Actions, Shamir's Stance Viewed *[MENA]* 22
  - Shamir Criticized for Bus Attack Remarks *[MENA]* 22
- Brazilian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit *[Cairo Radio]* 22
  - Confers With Foreign Minister *[Cairo Radio]* 23
  - Meets With Ghali *[MENA]* 23
  - Received by Mubarak *[MENA]* 23
  - Joint Communique Issued *[MENA]* 23
  - Departs *[MENA]* 24
- Deputy Accused of Drug Trafficking Said To Flee *[AL-WAFD 9 Nov]* 24
- 'Normal Life' Said Restored to Libyan Border *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 9 Nov]* 24
  - Ambassador Notes 'Normal' Relations *[Cairo Radio]* 25

Mauritania

- Interior Ministry Licenses New Political Party *[Nouakchott Radio]* 25
- Presidential Elections Set for 24 Jan, 27 Feb *[MAP]* 25
  - Opposition Parties Reject Schedule *[AFP]* 25

IRAQ

- Presidential Decree Names New Interior Minister *[INA]* 26
- New Defense Minister 'Well-Known Criminal' *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 26
- Saddam Chairs Joint Command Council-Party Meeting *[INA]* 26
- Saddam Tours Factory, Sees Reconstruction Efforts *[INA]* 27
- Kurdish Rebels Dig In South of Irbil *[AFP]* 27
- 'Tentative Accord' With Kurds on Lifting Blockade *[AFP]* 27
- Kurdish Leader Talabani on Talks With Baghdad *[AL-AHRAM 6 Nov]* 28
- Talabani Discusses Kurdish-Opposition Ties *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 29
- Foreign Ministry Source Says No Iranian POW's *[INA]* 32
- Over 200 Prisoners Executed; Conditions Worsen *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 32
- Two Pilots Reportedly Executed by Firing Squad *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 32
- Armed Kuwaiti Force Attacks Sudanese in Safwan *[INA]* 32
- Minister Hammadi Assails UAE President's Remarks *[Baghdad Radio]* 33
- Kuwait-U.S. Military Treaty Viewed *[INA]* 33
- Daily Assails U.S. New Order, 'Crimes' *[INA]* 33
- Protest to UN on U-2 Airspace Violations *[Baghdad Radio]* 33
- Regrets Over Arab, World 'Apathy' Toward Blockade *[INA]* 34

ISRAEL

- Knesset Resolution on Golan Heights Passed *[HATZOFE 12 Nov]* 35
  - 'Concern' Over 'Harsh' U.S. Reaction *[HA'ARETZ 13 Nov]* 35
- Envoy to U.S. Urges New Public Relations Effort *[HADASHOT 11 Nov]* 35
- Shamir on Freeing Syrian Jews, Missing Navigator *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
- Shamir Says Arabs Should Be Guided by 'Realism' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 36
- De Klerk Holds Press Briefing, Departs 13 Nov 36
  - Views Mine Issue, Nuclear Arms *[Johannesburg SAPA]* 36
  - Departs for Taiwan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
- Officials on Formation of Political Committees 37
  - No Opposition If Order Kept *['AL HAMISHMAR 12 Nov]* 37
  - Gen. Zohar: Committees 'Forbidden' *[Jerusalem TV]* 37
- Knesset Votes To Revoke MK Levi's Immunity *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38

Inner Cabinet Endorses Home Front Command *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Contingency Plan Devised for Arab Trade Ties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Labor Rejects Palestinian Self-Determination *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
    University Area Closed for Palestinian Debate *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Arab Woman Caught Near Minister Sharon's House *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Military Sources Deny Lebanese Villages Shelled *[Jerusalem TV]* 39
Four Jordanians Returned in Border Exchange *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Claims of Building Plans for Territories Denied *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
    Building Cuts Stem From U.S. 'Dictates' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 39
Peace Now Claims New Settlement Built in Samaria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39

JORDAN

Abu-Jabir: No Separate Peace Pact With Israel *[AL-BAYAN 11 Nov]* 40
Attempts To Reshuffle Government Face Obstacles *[JORDAN TIMES 9 Nov]* 40
Deficit Reduction, Tax Hike Steps Unveiled *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Nov]* 40
Muhammad's Army Trial Resumes; Defendants Confess *[London MBC TV]* 41
Writer Opposes Media Normalization With Israel *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 5 Nov]* 41
    Media Contact With Israel Criticized *[JORDAN TIMES 11 Nov]* 42
Islamic Deputies Ask Access to Official Media *[AL-DUSTUR 10 Nov]* 43

LEBANON

U.S. Offer on Army Move in Jazzin Turned Down *[VOL]* 44
Prime Minister Criticizes President's Performance *[VOM]* 44
Buwayz on Bilateral Talks Venue, Resolution 425 *[VOM]* 44
Israel Must Free Lebanese Before Hostage Release *[AL-SHIRA' 11 Nov]* 44
Iran's Khonsari on Hostages, Aid to al-Biqa' *[RFL]* 44
Interior Minister Chairs Meeting on AUB Blast *[Beirut Radio]* 44
Army Commander on Military Role Following Madrid *[Beirut Radio]* 45
Israeli Actions in South Continue 45
    Nine Wounded in Shelling *[VOL]* 45
    Israeli Commandoes Raid Village *[VOL]* 45
    Tension High *[RFL]* 45
Birri on Events in South, Aftermath of Madrid *[VOL]* 45
Iranian Delegation Visits Southern Towns *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 46

SYRIA

Al-Asad Meets U.S. Syrians, Notes Shamir Remarks *[Damascus Radio]* 47
AL-BA'TH Views Knesset Decision on Golan *[Damascus Radio]* 47
    Comment Deems Resolution Null, Void *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Talas Says Madrid Exposed Israeli Intentions *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Al-Shar' Returns After Cairo Meetings *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Ba'th Party's Al-Ahmar Receives Fatah Delegation *[SANA]* 49

SOUTH ASIA

India

Rao Denies Delhi Sabotaged SAARC Talks *[Delhi Radio]* 50
    Discusses Foreign Exchange Issue *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Solanki Says Visit to Tehran Opens 'New Chapter' *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Delhi Opposes Pakistan's Nuclear-Free Proposal *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Pakistan Capable of Producing 10 Nuclear Bombs *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Official on Narora Atomic Power Plant Features *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 25 Oct]* 51
Gill Appointed Punjab Police Director General *[Delhi Radio]* 52

Iran

PRC Construction Minister Arrives 12 Nov *[Tehran Radio]* 52

    Discusses Construction With Kazeruni *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Kalantari Meets Chinese Counterpart in Rome *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Editorial Says Cooperation With PRC 'Crucial' *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 30 Oct]* 52
U.S. Concern Over Nuclear Issue 'Hypocritical' *[IRNA]* 53
Commentary Assails 'Propaganda' on Nuclear Arms *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Baghdad Paper: China Supplying Enriched Uranium *[AL-'IRAQ 9 Nov]* 54
Commentary on Ways To Challenge U.S. Presence *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 2 Nov]* 55
Indian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks 55
    Kashmiri Muslims 'Stumbling Block' *[IRNA]* 55
    Urges Expanded Trade Relations *[Delhi Radio]* 56
    Chairs Commission With Velayati *[Tehran Radio]* 56
    Kashmir Viewed as 'Internal Matter' *[Delhi Radio]* 57
    President on Resolving Dispute *[Tehran Radio]* 57
    Memorandums of Understanding Signed *[Tehran Radio]* 57
    Concludes Visit, Departs 12 Nov *[IRNA]* 58
    Commentary Reviews Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Report, Comment on Seized Ship, Turkish Ties 58
    Habibi Holds News Conference *[IRNA]* 58
    Envoy on Efforts To Release Ship *[IRNA]* 59
    Ambassador Recalled for Consultations *[AFP]* 59
    Daily Warns of Damage to Relations *[IRNA]* 60
    Turkey Called 'Problem Neighbor' *[IRNA]* 60
    'Negative Consequences' Envisioned *[Tehran Radio]* 60
    Repercussions of Turkish Elections *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 24 Oct]* 61
Ayatollah Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon *[IRNA]* 62
    Notes Palestine Issue, Turkish Ties *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Border With Turkmenistan To Open for Trade *[IRNA]* 63
    Agricultural Protocol Signed *[IRNA]* 63
Bodies of Iraqi Soldiers Handed Over *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Kharrazi Says Tehran To Release Iraqi POW's *[IRNA]* 64
    Over 400 Iraqis To Be Returned *[IRNA]* 64
    Iraq Still Holds 5,000 POW's *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Over 1 Million Iraqi Refugees Return to Iraq *[IRNA]* 64
Qatari Crown Prince Arrives for Official Visit *[IRNA]* 65
    Meets With Vice President Habibi *[IRNA]* 65
    Confers With Velayati *[Tehran Radio]* 66
    Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* 66
    Joint Communique Issued *[Tehran Radio]* 66
    Signs 5 Agreements; Departs *[IRNA]* 67
Majles Committee Proposal for Egypt Ties Viewed 67
    Commentary: No Change in Relations *[IRNA]* 67
    Majles Deputies Deny Media Report *[SALAM 30 Oct]* 68
Japanese Envoy on Tehran's Role in Gulf Trade *[IRNA]* 68
    Cited on Persian Gulf Security *[IRNA]* 68
Zanganeh Appointed First Permanent Envoy to ICO *[IRNA]* 69
President Chairs National Security Council Meeting *[Tehran Radio]* 69
President: Women Long Way From Islamic Ideals *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Arms Smuggling Continues in Western Regions *[IRNA]* 69
Narcotics Procurement, Distribution Rings Smashed *[Tehran Radio]* 69

Pakistan

Sharif Denies Helping Iran With Nuclear Reactor *[Islamabad Radio]* 69
President Seeks Ties With India on Equal Footing *[Islamabad Radio]* 70

Madrid Talks

'Arafat Intervenes in 'Urayqat 'Kufiyah Crisis'

PM1111144591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Nov 91 p 1

[Huda al-Husayni and Ilyas Nasrallah report: " 'Arafat Resolved 'Kufiyah Crisis' by Ousting 'Urayqat"]

[Excerpt] London—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has ordered Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, to announce his withdrawal from the delegation. He insisted that the withdrawal announcement appear as a personal move by 'Urayqat himself.

The story is that after the first session of the Madrid peace conference Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir again protested to the Americans over 'Urayqat's remaining in the Palestinian delegation for the duration of the conference. The Americans conveyed the complaint to the Palestinians, and 'Arafat asked 'Urayqat to withdraw.

'Urayqat had infuriated Shamir and the Israeli delegation by insisting on wearing the Palestinian kufiyah [Palestinian headdress] on his shoulders throughout the conference inside and outside the conference hall. [passage omitted]

Faysal al-Husayni on Significance of Madrid

PM0811170091 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 7 Nov 91 p 16

[Interview with Palestinian delegation leader Faysal al-Husayni by Lucia Annunziata in Madrid; date not given]

[Excerpt] Madrid—[passage omitted] [Annunziata] Many people believe that the most extraordinary aspect of the conference that has just ended is symbolized by the image of Israeli Prime Minister Shamir listening to a Palestinian's speech of condemnation, without leaving the hall. Did you gain the same impression?
[Al-Husayni] Certainly, this was the most important thing. Remember that it is the Israelis who have always said that Palestine was a land without a people, that Golda Meir said repeatedly that "the Palestinians do not exist."

[Annunziata] Just yesterday an Israeli political group described the Madrid meeting as "the political birth of the Palestinian nation."
[Al-Husayni] Back in 1939, too—that is, at the time of our greatest political strength—we were received by the British, but as individuals. Never as now, as a delegation.

[Annunziata] So something new really has happened in Madrid.
[Al-Husayni] Definitely.

[Annunziata] Why do you think Israel joined the peace process with you?
[Al-Husayni] I think that a great deal of the credit lies with us, because we did not fall into any of the traps that Israel laid for us so as to be able to leave.

[Annunziata] That seems to me an ungenerous explanation. Do you really think that Israel has no positive reasons for wanting peace?
[Al-Husayni] Yes, it does, and they consist of the fact that, deep down, it knows that its interests lie with us. From a human, personal viewpoint, the Israelis know that, despite official ideologies, their best future lies with us.

[Annunziata] Do you not find it strange that, after so many years during which you hoped to build a dialogue with Israel's democrats, you are now sitting down with your arch-enemy, Shamir?
[Al-Husayni] I sit, and I do not sit, with him. What I mean is that I am contending with an idea, not a person.

[Annunziata] But apart from all these positive contacts and symbolic aspects, did you also obtain any substantive promises from the meeting?
[Al-Husayni] We now face numerous problems. The greatest is that we are returning home to face a euphoric Palestinian public that expects a very great deal. We have done much, but unless something now materializes, and soon, we risk facing rapid disillusionment. So we have issued an appeal to the United States and Israel to tell them that it is no longer enough to say, "we want peace"; now it is necessary to start making it—and right away. We must immediately enter the second stage of the negotiations.

[Annunziata] I imagine you discussed these steps that must be taken immediately at the first bilateral meeting.
[Al-Husayni] At that meeting we did indeed present a number of demands concerning the observance of human rights, such as the release of prisoners and the liberalization of political activity. We are asking Israel to accept these demands as confidence-building gestures. All this has nothing to do with the negotiations, but constitute the foundation on which a real and positive dialogue can begin. After all, you cannot say, "sit down" without offering a chair.

[Annunziata] Did you also put forward the very controversial demand for a halt to the construction of settlements? If so, what was Israel's response?
[Al-Husayni] We read out our stance in this regard, and they got angry. A heated discussion ensued, then we stopped at that point. When we resumed talking we dealt solely with where and how to continue the meetings. But the settlements remain an absolute priority for us, before any other step.

[Annunziata] I would point out to you that while the Camp David talks were going on, too, Israel was constructing settlements in Sinai that were subsequently dismantled.
[Al-Husayni] But that happened precisely because Egypt insisted on making the destruction of the settlements a priority.

[Annunziata] But Egypt did not immediately leave the negotiating table over it.
[Al-Husayni] And who said that we will leave it?

[Annunziata] For its part, Israel is demanding from you reciprocal confidence-building gestures, such as a declaration of an end to the intifadah. Syria, however, maintains that the very fact that the Arabs have come to Madrid is a gesture that proves their goodwill. Do you agree with Syria?
[Al-Husayni] We have given many demonstrations of good faith, and not just by coming here, but through the way in which we have behaved. The intifadah cannot be stopped, however—partly because, as has been seen recently, it also involves peaceful demonstrations.

[Annunziata] Was the difference that emerged with Syria at this meeting a major one?
[Al-Husayni] There is no difference with Syria over aims; only over stances. We have two different stances.

[Annunziata] You do not sit at the negotiating table, but other important figures are also missing, including 'Arafat. How long can this situation last before these figures feel excluded?
[Al-Husayni] I do not know when 'Arafat will sit down at the negotiating table, but I am sure that by 1995 there will be a Palestinian passport.

Palestinian Team Chief on Ending Arab Boycott

*PM0711170691 Milan L'UNITA in Italian
5 Nov 91 p 3*

[Interview with Palestinian delegation leader Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi by Janiki Cingoli in Madrid on 4 November]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Cingoli] How do you feel now?
['Abd-al-Shafi] Moderately satisfied. Now real progress is needed to resolve the conflict.

[Cingoli] Do you think that the images of the past few days have changed anything in Israel?
['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, something certainly has changed, but not yet in substance. But as far as the general atmosphere is concerned, there has been definite progress.

[Cingoli] Could we say that there has been a psychological impact?
['Abd-al-Shafi] The important thing is that we were seen on an absolutely equal footing for the first time.

[Cingoli] What about among the Palestinians?
['Abd-al-Shafi] In the past few days there has been growing support from the population for our involvement and negotiating process. Of course there are certain minority and extreme fringes.

[Cingoli] Have you received any threats? Do you feel in danger?
['Abd-al-Shafi] No, I personally have never been threatened. I have a spiritual presence; I am respected by everyone.

[Cirgoli] What influence does Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have in the territories?
['Abd-al-Snafi] I do not know. I respect all opinions. I am trying to initiate a dialogue with everyone in order to clarify how things stand.

[Cingoli] There was a difference of conduct between you and the Syrians. You acted entirely autonomously, together with the Jordanians.
['Abd-al-Shafi] There is no difference over the Palestinians' basic rights. I did not consider it advisable to respond to Shamir, even to his provocations, with further provocations, insults, or verbal attacks. We decided to avoid this escalation and did not allow ourselves to become involved.

[Cingoli] But do you think that Syria is determined to continue the negotiations?
['Abd-al-Shafi] It is difficult to say, but I think so.

[Cingoli] What is the present agenda for the negotiations, their real substance?
['Abd-al-Shafi] For the moment, self-government for the Palestinians.

[Cingoli] Do you think that at a secondary stage the ultimate status of the territories should be discussed?
['Abd-al-Shafi] For the present the most pressing issue is a halt to Israeli settlements in the territories. It is a crucial issue for the negotiations. The continuation of settlements is absolutely incompatible with the continuation of the peace process.

[Cingoli] But do you think that there could be an end to the Arab boycott on Israel in exchange for a halt on settlements, as Baker has suggested?
['Abd-al-Shafi] This is a matter that concerns not us Palestinians but the various Arab states. We Palestinians do not oppose an end to their economic boycott.

[Cingoli] What difference is there between the current negotiations and those at Camp David?
['Abd-al-Shafi] At Camp David only a municipal-type autonomy was envisioned for us Palestinians, whereas self-government entails Palestinian control of the land and waters.

Israel's Netanyahu Says 'Secret' Talks Held

*PM0711144991 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA
in Spanish 3 Nov 91 p 7*

[Interview with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Henrique Cymerman in Madrid on 2 November]

[Text] "There are secret contacts between Israelis and Arabs at the Madrid conference, and I hope that they will soon be able to hold them openly and without fear of terrorism," Binyamin Netanyahu, current leader of the

Israeli delegation and deputy foreign minister, disclosed to LA VANGUARDIA Saturday in his only interview granted to the press at the Madrid conference.

[Cymerman] What is happening in the negotiations, and what are the prospects?

[Netanyahu] We received invitations from the United States and the Soviet Union to hold the first meeting in Madrid and decide where the negotiations will continue. We hope that the Arabs will accept the proposal made by the prime minister to hold them in the Middle East. The bilateral talks begin tomorrow. I hope that all the Arab delegations will attend. Only one thing is certain: Israel will be there.

[Cymerman] Is the United States a possible compromise alternative that could be negotiated Sunday?

[Netanyahu] The United States understands the logic of our request. I imagine that, perhaps not immediately—but finally, after obstacles and delays—we will reach an agreement on the venue for the talks.

[Cymerman] Is Washington a possibility?

[Netanyahu] For that we already have Madrid, which has received us in an excellent manner and has expressed its desire to take part in this historic process. The issue is not another Western capital but the search for peace in the place where it is needed—in the Middle East. We must negotiate there.

[Cymerman] What is your opinion of Syrian Minister Faruq al-Shar'"s accusation that Shamir was a terrorist?

[Netanyahu] I have already been in this movie for four consecutive years, when I was UN ambassador. I heard many speeches of hatred and personal attacks. We did not come here for that.

[Cymerman] You said that you would not talk with Palestinians who declared themselves appointed by the PLO. One of them did so; their delegation's leader mentioned "Chairman 'Arafat," and the Israeli delegation did not rise from the table...

[Netanyahu] We said that we would not negotiate with PLO members, and in fact there are none in their delegation. Of course we cannot censure every word that is said. We do not wish to negotiate with the PLO because it still supports, officially and de facto, the destruction of the State of Israel. What can I discuss with somebody who wishes to exterminate me?

[Cymerman] Is the impression that Israel has succeeded in beginning a certain dialogue with the Palestinians correct?

[Netanyahu] What worried us in the Palestinian line was the idea of flooding Israel with Palestinian refugees and of returning to the partition of 1947, which they rejected at the time and which today would mean the end of Israel. To return Galilee and the Negev would leave us with 20 percent of the current minimum territory. However, perhaps the ice is beginning to be broken with the Palestinians. Something has happened in Madrid: There is a struggle here between the past (the UN character wanted by the Arabs) and the future. Some people want this to be a coliseum like the United Nations, in which they throw us to the lions. I tried to talk outside the hall with the Arabs, since inside they were very cold and distant.

[Cymerman] Syria demands total withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and Israel insists on the "peace in return for peace" formula. What can you two discuss?

[Netanyahu] Many things, because peace is as vital for them as for us. The Gulf war showed what an Arab leader who insists on a state of war can lose—his army, his economy, his capital, and perhaps his life. War is as dangerous for the Arabs as for the Israelis. I hope that the Syrians understand this fact.

[Cymerman] What kind of self-government will you propose to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza?

[Netanyahu] We have a clear, two-stage framework; above all, that they should run their lives with minimum intervention by us and that Israel should have maximum security with respect to the powerful eastern front. Today, "greater Israel" is 50 km wide. To survive, we must control that wall of the hills of Judaea and Samaria (the West Bank); on the other hand, there are Palestinian people living there. We believe that in that way they will run their lives while we will be able to maintain our security.

[Cymerman] That is, you propose a self-government of people, not territories...

[Netanyahu] I will not enter into definitions, but it is clear that Israel is sovereign in external and internal defense and in foreign policy. From there our civilian airports or our Air Force can be threatened with missiles. We also need a safety margin, since the Israeli Army is mostly based on reservists and takes 48 to 72 hours to mobilize. If missiles fall on us, this could hamper that mobilization. What will happen after the intermediate period of self-government? It is not fortuitous that Bush said that a basic element in the future is security. Under those conditions, a peace only on paper could not be imagined.

Kuwait also had peace, and it meant nothing to Iraq. As long as we are surrounded by totalitarian regimes, any final agreement must be based on our defense capability, and this requires a military presence. The final agreement must combine both elements.

[Cymerman] Bush also spoke of the need for a territorial compromise. Is there a realistic possibility of the Likud government's withdrawing from the occupied territories?

[Netanyahu] Look, I am not negotiating here, but if Bush talked about that, he is certainly also referring to an Arab compromise. There can be no compromise in which Israel, the attacked party, gives 100 percent and the Arabs, on the other hand, zero percent. Do not forget that we have already given 91 percent of the strategic territories with oil to Egypt, under agreements which we reached in a defensive war. What other country would have done that? Israel has already given back territories in return for peace. I have not yet heard a single Arab country which is prepared to give up a centimeter of disputed territory. When we do find somebody like that, very important talks will take place.

Israeli Negotiator Evaluates Preliminary Talks

PM0811104091 Milan L'UNITA in Italian
4 Nov 91 p 3

[Interview with Israeli delegation spokesman Yosef 'Amihud by Janiki Cingoli in Madrid on 3 November]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Cingoli] To what do you attribute the atmosphere here?
['Amihud] I think that we all realized the historic importance of this meeting, of the turning point that it marked in relations between our peoples.

[Cingoli] Were the negotiations confined to formal aspects or did they include matters of substance?
['Amihud] The discussions centered on where to continue the bilateral negotiations. The Arabs are requesting a neutral location, whereas we Israelis want to meet in the Middle East and are proposing meetings held in the various Arab capitals and Israel in turn.

[Cingoli] Did the Palestinian side present any written document containing their demands?
['Amihud] No, neither side presented any documents.

[Cingoli] Why are you Israelis so insistent that the negotiations be held in the Middle East?
['Amihud] Because we have to consider the future of our relations; we must break down the barrier of mistrust and suspicion that has been created throughout these years of conflict.

[Cingoli] What do you think the substance of the agreement should be?
['Amihud] It must not be merely a temporary agreement confined to an end to the state of war. We want to sign a full peace treaty with the Jordanians, and we will accept no provisional substitute.

[Cingoli] Do you think there could be a risk of a deadlock in the negotiations unless agreement is reached on a venue for the talks?
['Amihud] No, I think that the United States and Egypt too will not allow themselves to miss this opportunity, so there will be a strong impetus for the continuation of the meetings. Some formula will be found.

[Cingoli] Could you explain your negotiating stance more clearly?
['Amihud] It can be summed up in three points: 1. We do not want just a formal peace agreement or act of nonaggression; 2. We want this peace treaty which must be signed to guarantee real security for the countries of our area, and therefore Israel; 3. All this must be achieved through direct negotiations to be held in the region.

In Israeli delegation circles the Syrians' reluctance to accept the start of bilateral negotiations was attributed to a lack of willingness to carry out this kind of negotiation. According to the Israelis, the Syrians want the bilateral relations to take the form of some kind of subcommittees to the regional conference. They also want to maintain a connection between the various bilateral negotiations. This formula is unacceptable to the Israelis, who point out that the regional peace conference can only be convened if there is agreement on all sides.

Last, the self-government that the Israelis envision is basically self-administration by the Palestinian population. Sovereignty over the land in the territories must remain with Israel, starting with the borders issue. And this sovereignty extends to control of the land and waters. This is the real subject of the debate between Israelis and Palestinians.

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Hesitant To Finance Projects in Syria, Egypt

JN1311065291 Amman Radio Jordan in English
0530 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo said the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states are hesitant to finance development projects in Egypt and Syria. The sources added that such Gulf Cooperation Council position led to postponement of discussing the economic cooperation file until next April within the framework of the so-called group of eight signatories of the Damascus Declaration.

Arab Maghreb Foreign Ministers Meet 11-12 Nov

LD1311102691 Rabat MAP in English 1303 GMT
12 Nov 91

[Text] Marrakech, Nov 12 (MAP/POOL/UMA)—Maghreban foreign ministers and ministers in charge of coordinating Maghreban action are holding here a two-day meeting this November 11-12.

Foreign ministers and ministers in charge of UMA affairs of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, forming the Arab Maghreb Union are to define Maghreban action priorities and set programs for implementing the common strategy in development matters.

In an opening address Monday, Moroccan Minister of State in Charge of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali said achievment of a strong union is rendered possible thanks to the existence of a Maghreban common will insisting, however, on the need to lift the last obstacles hindering the unity process.

The opening ceremony was also marked by the first address of newly-appointed UMA Secretary General Mohamed Amamou who reviewed the union past action and progress achieved by UMA in its relations with European Mediterranean countries and with the EEC at large through the inception of a frame of dialogue and cooperation, namely the 5+5 group (five Maghreban countries in addition to Spain, Italy, Portugal, France and Malta).

He also underlined the role played by the union in the world major events to support international legality listing as an example the union participation as an observer in the Madrid peace conference.

After the opening ceremony, the Maghreban officials held in-camera sessions.

Discuss Coordination Issues

LD1311104291 Tripoli JANA in English 1743 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Marrakesh/al-Harth 12 [12 Nov]/JANA/Arab Maghreb Union pool—The Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers council held a meeting yesterday in Marrakesh, Morocco. The meeting was attended by AMU ministers of economy as well as ministers for Arab Maghreb Union affairs.

The meeting was devoted to determining the methodological and economic priorities, to give the citizens of the Arab Maghreb Union the right of movement, employment and residence.

It also viewed the call for concerned ministers to issue unified identity cards and proceed regarding the payment of settlements and opening new horizons in the area of airline and sea transport.

The meeting was held in implementation of the resolution of the Casablanca summit which took place on 15 and 16 al fatih [15-16 Sep] 1991.

Ibrahim Bishari the secretary of the Peoples Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau indicated at the start of the meeting that it was high time that the Arab Maghreb Union citizens felt the impact of our actions in order not to hang in a vacuum. We need to concentrate our efforts to facilitate the freedom of transport residence posession and work for the Arab Maghreb Union citizens in order to reach unified goals.

He indicated that peoples masses and public opinion within the Arab Maghreb Union wait for tangible results from the Council and that the leaders of the Arab Maghreb Union have assigned the Council of Foreign Ministers with this significant task affirming the importance of unionist action in the Arab Maghreb Union in a world that moves forward to unities and blocs.

The Arab Maghreb Union foreign ministers had moreover assigned the ministers of economy and experts of the follow-up committees to draw up practical prospects to be submitted to the Council later on.

The council will resume its activities today.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Official Discusses Mideast Peace Conference

BK1011055891 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0414 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Bandung, Nov 8 (ANTARA)—The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] has reiterated its statement that the Palestinians must have their own country since a homeland is among their legitimate rights.

OIC Secretary General Hamid Al Gabid made the statement in an interview with ANTARA in Bandung late on Friday, after the conclusion of the second meeting of OIC telecommunication ministers here.

The two-day meeting, attended by 117 delegates from 33 OIC member states, was opened by President Suharto on Thursday.

Al Gabid asserted that efforts to secure peace in the Middle East, after the Madrid conference last week, needed to be continued as such a single meeting would certainly be insufficient.

Speaking in his hotel room, Al Gabid of Nigeria did not give his judgement whether the Madrid conference had been succesful or failed.

However, he emphasized, the difficult meeting had somehow been succesful in bringing together the conflicting parties.

He expressed his hope that there would be immediate follow-ups to the Madrid conference.

"OIC is of the opinion that the restoration of the Palestinian's legitimate rights for a homeland is the key problem," Al Gabid said, stressing the need to bring forward the issue every talks on the Middle East conflict.

The Madrid conference began on October 30 and lasted for three days, attended by representatives of the Palestinian people, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel. It was for the first time in 43 years for those countries to hold talks on the issue.

ICO Condemns Desecration of Mosque in India

LD1011132891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1131 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, 10 Nov (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has expressed great concern over renewed attempts by Hindu fundamentalist to demolish the historical Babri Mosque [in Ayodhya] and erect a Hindu temple on the site.

The organization added in a statement issued today: "The ICO General Secretariat reiterates its condemnation and denunciation of the renewed attempts by Hindu extremists to demolish the Babri Mosque as well as acts of desecration against it." It adds: "Reports have been asserting that the Hindu extremists seized the area adjacent to the mosque courtyard and that acts of desecration and demolition are being carried out once more against the mosque and that acts of violence are once again by carried out by Hindu extremists against Muslims."

The ICO General Secretariat urged the Indian Government to take necessary measures to prevent acts aimed at desecrating the old mosque and to stop all kinds of violence against Muslims.

It, furthermore, urges the Indian Government to spare no efforts, in accordance with international charters for human rights, to guarantee and protect the lives and the property of more than 100 million Muslims in India in order to live with dignity, practice their religious rites freely, and enjoy their rich Islamic heritage.

ICO Scientific, Technical Committee Meets

LD1111175791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has called for the implementation of joint scientific and technological projects by Islamic countries in the fields of aerospace, peaceful nuclear research, satellite manufacture, and computer production.

Mr Mo'in-Najafabadi, our country's minister of culture and higher education, was speaking this afternoon at the fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Cooperation Committee of the Islamic Conference Organisation [ICO] in Islamabad, Pakistan. He proposed the formation of a specialist committee comprising scholars and researchers from Islamic countries to implement these projects. He also called for the approval of a special mandate to employ Palestinian researchers, specialists, educationalists, and students in all Islamic countries.

In his speech, he declared Iran's readiness for any form of cooperation in the planning of scientific and technical education, of strengthening the infrastructure of scientific and cultural development, and of deepening research communication between Islamic countries.

The fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the ICO will continue until next Wednesday.

Palestinian Affairs

Dialogue With U.S. To Resume; Delegation Formed

TA1211200991 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 11 Nov 91 p 16

[Text] The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will be resumed before the end of this month after Egypt's intercession with the U.S. Administration. Cairo sees in this step as a boost for the peace process.

A Palestinian source told AL-MANAR that the Palestinian dialogue team has already been formed. It is headed by Mahmud 'Abbas [Abu- Mazin] and its members are Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Nabil Sha'th, and Sa'id Kamal, the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo. The dialogue will be held in Cairo.

Madrid Delegates Conduct Seminars in Territories

TA1211210891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation and advisory council today held a series of seminars and gatherings in all parts of the territories in a bid to explain the achievements of the Palestinian delegation during the first round of the peace conference in Madrid. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that this activity will continue for one week, whereupon the members of the Palestinian delegation will leave for Jordan to begin consultations regarding bilateral negotiations with Israel.

A number of Palestinian figures, including Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Ghassan al-Khatib, and Dr. Nabil Qassis today held a seminar in Ramallah about the peace process in Madrid.

Al-Husayni, al-Maliki Debate at Bethlehem University

TA1211161591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] With PLO flags and pictures of Yasir 'Arafat and George Habash decorating the stage, a debate was held today at Bethlehem University between Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, who is identified with the Popular Front and who objects to the participation of the Palestinians in the peace process under the present conditions. A bomb exploded in the city's Manger Square while the debate was going on. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Amir] The confrontation between Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Riyad al-Maliki was held in good spirits. Both men presented their positions—*for* and against the peace process. Dr. al-Maliki objected to the participation of the Palestinians in the peace conference, and he stated that there is no room for rejoicing, since the Palestinian state is not around the corner. According to him, the Palestinians have fallen in their own trap, because the most they can get from this process is what the Americans set as the basis for the entire process—which does not include East Jerusalem, self-determination for the Palestinian people, or an independent state. The best that will be attained is still pending negotiation with Israel, al-Maliki added. Worst of all, he continued, the Palestinians speak about a confederation with Jordan that does not provide for the recognition of their rights, which means that Israel would be replaced by Jordan.

For his part, Faysal al-Husayni pointed to the achievements made by the Palestinians by their very participation in the Madrid conference, and he emphasized that the so-called joint delegation had two leaders, a Palestinian and a Jordanian one. Al-Husayni asserted that Israel failed to veto the inclusion of Dr. 'Urayqat in the delegation, just as it failed in other issues. According to him, there is no question of a confederation with Jordan before the goal of establishing an independent Palestinian state has been attained.

The auditorium at Bethlehem University where the debate took place looked different today. PLO flags and pictures of Yasir 'Arafat and George Habash, the leaders of al-Husayni and al-Maliki, hang behind the table where the debaters were seated. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces], trying to prevent media coverage of the debate, declared the area of the university a closed military zone. An hour ago, however, when it turned out that journalists, cameramen, and the debaters themselves were already in the hall, it was decided to reopen the area.

As if to return us to the daily reality in the territories, just as the debate was about to start, a homemade bomb exploded as it was thrown at the police station at Bethlehem's Manger Square, some 2 km east of the university. Nobody was hurt. Soldiers in the area opened fire and cordoned off the site of the incident to check that there were no other bombs around.

PLO, Palestinians Discussing Provisional Government

JN1311073291 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Nov 91 p 17

[Text] Amman—It has been learned from informed Palestinian quarters that the Palestinians from inside the occupied territories and the PLO leadership are currently holding contacts to come out with a new formula, providing for the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference to work through a provisional government. The idea is now being discussed by Palestinian sectors from inside and outside. Consultations over the idea are also being held with Arab and foreign parties.

These quarters said the idea may be raised in a broader sense, whereby the Palestinian government-in-exile would include members from inside and outside the occupied homeland and follow the same course that was followed in the Madrid peace conference.

The same quarters explained that the course, which is being discussed with the United States and the Soviet Union, would enable the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference to work in the open. It would also constitute a step toward the transitional self-government, proposed as a first step toward Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the Palestinian people's attainment of their right to self-determination.

'Abd al-Shafi Assesses Madrid Talks

TA1211190691 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 11 Nov 91 pp 1, 11

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of Palestinian component of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference, by Khalid Abu-'Akir; place and date not given]

[Text] [Abu-'Akir] How do you assess Palestinian participation in the Madrid conference?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We, the Palestinians, went to the conference with seriousness and sincerity to help make a just and lasting peace. As far as we are concerned, the preliminary phase was somewhat positive. We achieved positive propaganda for the Palestinian image in the world. I believe we advanced one small step, and that encourages us to continue.

[Abu-'Akir] You are talking then about gains achieved due to Palestinian participation in Madrid?

['Abd-al-Shafi] As I said, we made a notable propaganda achievement.

[Abu-'Akir] And politically?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We presented the Palestinian problem in its various aspects and revived it in the world's conscience quite well.

[Abu-'Akir] What future steps does the Palestinian delegation intend to take?

['Abd-al-Shafi] As everyone knows, the future steps are bilateral negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations. In my view, they will be difficult steps and it will be a very critical period, because the Israelis are approaching this period with their well known rigid stance. We will try to isolate the Israeli side by adhering to our firm goals and through propaganda tactics, because the Israeli stance is based only on brute force. This stance, as far as the Palestinian problem is concerned, violates international law. We hope that this situation will force Israel to abandon its hardline stance.

[Abu-'Akir] Are we, as Palestinians, well prepared for this stage, the stage of bilateral negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We are somewhat prepared, but we should prepare ourselves better if we are going to go to the conference.

[Abu-'Akir] Then you have not made complete preparations for the bilateral negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No matter how prepared we are, there is always need for further preparation. We will be going to the conference with great seriousness, but we feel that we need further preparation.

[Abu-'Akir] Is the delegation currently pursuing a specific strategy?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I cannot reveal the Palestinian strategy, but, obviously, every negotiating delegation must have a specific strategy according to which it operates.

[Abu-'Akir] Is it a joint strategy for the Palestinian and Jordanian parties in the joint delegation?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It is a Palestinian strategy drawn up by the Palestinian delegation, but there will be coordination with the other delegations, above all with the Jordanian delegation, which will help support this strategy.

[Abu-'Akir] The joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation and the Israeli delegation released a joint statement after the end of the preparatory meeting for the bilateral negotiations in Madrid last Sunday. Following the reading of the statement by the head of the Jordanian side, the head of the Israeli delegation raised the issue of autonomy. In the wake of that, you expressed reservation about the Israeli position. Can you explain that?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The head of the Israeli delegation wanted to change the course of bilateral Palestinian-Israeli negotiations by implying that the talks are over autonomy. I wanted to express the Palestinians' reservations about this. We have priorities to which we adhere with regard to beginning the negotiations process. I cannot commit myself to an issue that the Israeli delegation considers fundamental or official.

[Abu-'Akir] In the wake of your meeting you managed to release a joint statement, but you disagreed on the venue. Why were you not able to reach a compromise on that issue?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Israel wants to hold the negotiations in the region. We oppose that. It was therefore suggested that each delegation go back to the cosponsors of the conference, who would then determine the venue of the negotiations.

[Abu-'Akir] What venue is acceptable to the Palestinians for bilateral negotiations, and why do you reject the Middle East region?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It is inconceivable for the talks to be held in an Arab capital, and we will not agree that they take place in Israel. Therefore, we did not agree to the Israeli proposal. We would have liked Madrid to be the venue, but Israel rejects this. Hence, we said that we have no objection to a venue somewhere in Europe. We shall see where the negotiations will be held, and which region the cosponsors propose.

[Abu-'Akir] Washington has been proposed as the venue for the meetings. What is your opinion?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We have no objection to Washington.

[Abu-'Akir] The Palestinians do not have freedom of movement in Washington. Will you call for the lifting of restrictions imposed on Palestinians as a condition for agreeing to Washington? Will you raise the issue of the restoration of dialogue with the PLO?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The renewal of U.S.-PLO dialogue is an issue that is continuously being raised. As for the existence of difficulties for Palestinians in Washington—that is true. We do not prefer Washington as the venue for negotiations, but we are in a position that makes us realize that matters cannot absolutely move on the path we prefer. We have basic objections to some of the venues and we cannot make any concessions on them, but we cannot object to other venues. That is our overall position.

[Abu-'Akir] What is your opinion about Arab coordination?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It will continue and intensify. This is an important issue for us so that we will be fully prepared as Arab delegations for the bilateral negotiations.

[Abu-'Akir] What priorities will you raise during the bilateral negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is something that concerns the negotiations with our adversary. I cannot reveal our priorities, but in the negotiations we will adhere to the Palestinian principles known to everyone.

[Abu-'Akir] And with regard to settlement activity?

['Abd-al-Shafi] As far as we are concerned, this is an important and basic issue. We will show that it is impossible to conduct meaningful negotiations under the shadow of continued settlement activity.

Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian 'Cantons' Proposed

PM1211124491 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
8 Nov 91 p 3

[Samir Nasif report: "Khalid al-Hasan Proposes Swiss-Style Confederation"]

[Text] London—Khalid al-Hasan, head of the Palestine National Council Foreign Affairs Committee and Fatah Central Committee member, has proposed the establishment of a Swiss-style confederation comprising Israel, Palestine, and Jordan. In a lecture that he delivered the day before yesterday at the Royal Institute for International Affairs in London he called for the establishment of a system of "cantons" in this confederation so as to resolve within such a framework most of the problems preventing a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli dispute.

He said that his position enjoys Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's support, and that its details will be issued shortly in a book titled "Ideas for Discussion," copies of which he has distributed to officials at the British Foreign Office and the foreign ministries of other countries.

Al-Hasan described the first stage of the peace talks as "very successful, in the Palestinian view." He hoped that its success would continue.

With regard to a confederation, he pointed out that it is possible to establish one between Palestine and Israel alone; among Palestine, Israel, and Jordan; or between the Jewish state, as defined by the 1947 partition resolution, and the West Bank and Gaza, in addition to the area between them which the Jewish forces occupied in the 1947-1948 war, provided that the area is under the municipalities' administrative rule as a trial and for a specific period.

He said that some inhabitants would be able to work in one canton and vote in another, and that Jerusalem would regarded in his plan as a "canton" and capital of the confederation. It might comprise two or three municipalities and the three states' water would be the confederal state's property, which would eliminate the problem.

As for the economy, it would be of a kind that facilitates coexistence.

Al-Hasan pointed out that under such a system border details would no longer be important and there would be no room for extremist ideologies to play their role, because economic cooperation among the cantons would destroy them.

Perhaps, he said, the plan has been put forward too early and perhaps it contains contradictions with the Madrid conference resolutions, but I have been preparing it since last March, before the Madrid conference was convened.

He expressed his belief that bilateral talks between Israel and its neighbors will not achieve the desired aims, because the two sides are demanding the same things. He said that "the late Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat's flexibility did not achieve much." The subject of the lecture was "peace or lasting peace in the Middle East." Commenting on his choice of title, he said: "Al-Sadat or the Madrid conference may have achieved peace, but they have not achieved a lasting peace, which can only be achieved through a Swiss-style confederal system."

One of the other points that he made at the beginning of his lecture was to state his belief that "the Americans are serious in their desire for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue." He described this as important, because it is the first time that "the world has been led by one superpower instead of two or three. The United States is running world affairs and nobody can oppose its will."

He added that "U.S. leaders are aware of the need to organize the new world order as a soon as possible, and before political explosions occur in various regions." About the U.S. plan to force the parties to negotiate, he said: "They have put all the contending parties on the top of a very steep slope and made them realize that their failure to negotiate will make them slip."

He pointed out that "resolving the Middle East problem does not necessarily mean resolving the Palestinian problem, and that implementing Resolution 242 may lead to peace, but not a lasting peace. The last peace involved a state of human and moral harmony and does not entail the strong imposing itself to the detriment of the weak."

He added: "Israel may reach peace with the Arabs but not with the Palestinians. If it wants a lasting peace, it must concentrate on the practical solutions, beginning and ending with the Palestinians, and by applying the values of peace, impartiality, and freedom to both sides."

He said that six things will make the attainment of a lasting peace very difficult: First, the economic problem. This, because Israel is not a European state; bor will it be one. All that it can achieve in its economic relations with Europe is a situation similar to that of some of the Maghreb states. Thus it must be won over to the idea of its economic membership of the community of Middle Eastern states, because it is that, and not the billions of dollars that it receives from the United States, that will secure its economic survival.

Second, the water issue. The region's water is owned by several states (Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and so on...) A solution to that problem lies in the confederation. As for the problem of coexistence, it concerns largely the civilizations that emerged in that region, and they do not differ much from one another. He said: "I cried when I saw Palestinian children putting olive branches in the Israeli soldiers' guns, expressing their joy at the opening of the Madrid conference."

He added: "The Holy Land's civilizations can easily coexist, because they belong to a single spiritual source."

The fourth problem is security. In this regard Al-Hasan said: "Security means that everyone must feel secure. Security does not mean the security of one group at the expense of other groups."

Fifth, he spoke about impartiality, saying: "Our peoples must be clear in their relations and build a relationship of trust that will make everyone feel that they are in the same boat."

Finally, he said: "Survival does not, as the Israelis believe, stem from their possession of a strong army and advanced military equipment. This, because history has proved that it is a successful economy, not military capability, which secures survival."

On the refugees issue, al-Hasan said: "This problem must be transformed from a collective problem into an individual issue, and Security Council Resolution 194 must be implemented so as to secure every refugee's right to return home or to secure compensation."

Abu-'Ayyash on Madrid, Peace Process

TA1211131391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Nov 91 p A2

[Interview with Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, a member of the Palestinian advisory council to the Madrid talks, by Dani Rubinstein; at Abu-'Ayyash's house in Ramallah on 11 November]

[Text] [Rubinstein] What is your response to the people who congratulate you on the Madrid talks?

[Abu-'Ayyash] I tell them not to exaggerate. We are at the beginning of the road. More time and patience are needed. I ask my friends to demonstrate courage and determination, but I cannot deny that I too am much more optimistic than I was prior to the trip to Madrid. There are several reasons for this. It is the first time that we, the Palestinians, are seriously trying out a new road, the road of a direct dialogue with our enemies. It seems to me that the world too, the international community led by the United States, is taking the matter seriously and creating a suitable atmosphere for the peace process. The Arab world as well is finding out the right path of the dialogue on which we started to march. This is encouraging.

[Rubinstein] Is the atmosphere you discovered upon your return to the territories different indeed?

[Abu-'Ayyash] Definitely. All those pictures of youths who extend olive branches to the Israeli soldiers—after all, these are the youths who had hurled stones at the soldiers in recent years. This is one of the signs of the psychological change which the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are going through. Before we left for Madrid there was a great deal of suspiciousness. The support for the process is much stronger now.

[Rubinstein] Why? What did you obtain in the conference, all in all?

[Abu-'Ayyash] Besides international recognition and status, as frequently mentioned already, the move of the Palestinians' participation in the conference yielded a number of results. Our relations with the Arab world assumed a positive change. 'Arafat has visited Damascus twice lately after he had been barred from there for many years. 'Arafat and PLO representatives are welcome guests now in Cairo, Amman, and Saudi Arabia. 'Arafat has met with President Mubarak and King Husayn. There are ties and coordination efforts with the Arab countries as had not been for a long time before. The negative image of the Palestinians has largely disappeared. I believe that our appearance in the conference managed to convince everyone that we are sincerely prepared to reach a settlement. It is especially important for us to convince the Israelis of this.

[Rubinstein] It is not clear yet whether you managed to achieve anything vis-a-vis the Israelis.

[Abu-'Ayyash] Convincing the government in Israel is a complex and complicated matter. This is a government with tough ideological positions, but no government rules forever. In my opinion, if this government does not adapt itself to the change which the peace process will bring about it will fall. I anticipate early elections in Israel, and perhaps the establishment of a new government from which those elements that sabotage the peace process will be absent. The Likud and its partners in the government today base their positions on fear of and suspiciousness toward the Arabs and Palestinians, and I hope that the beginning of the process will make it clear to the Israeli public opinion that our intentions are real. The basic approach of Prime Minister Shamir is to place obstacles on the road to peace, to gain time, not to pay anything in return for peace, but he will now have no choice but to take the U.S. position and changes worldwide into account.

[Rubinstein] Are you counting on changes in Israeli public opinion—on a strengthening of the so-called peace camp?

[Abu-'Ayyash] Yes, definitely. The peace groups in Israel are very important to us, and we pin great hopes on them. The step taken by the Palestinians in the peace conference can provide the Israeli peace camp with a very effective weapon in its struggle for an accommodation with the Palestinians. Our goal—attaining peace in this land—is shared by both of us. At the end of the day, we all want to secure the future of our children here. The Israeli peace camp will be joining similar groups in many other countries around the world who will push in the right direction.

[Rubinstein] What do you expect will happen in the next few days or weeks?

[Abu-'Ayyash] I foresee more dynamic developments. The entire process should not be allowed to sink into endless and futile talks that do not involve any action. As I understand their position, the Americans will not allow the sides to play for time. For their own domestic needs, among other reasons, it is important for the Washington administration to show that something is budging. The first step in the struggle will have to be an end to settlement. This is the most important factor necessary for progress, as is the beginning of the process of turning governmental powers over to the Palestinians in the territories. That is how we will build the confidence that will pave the rest of the way.

Dynamics of Palestinian Political Scene Analyzed

TA1211122791 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Nov 91 p 10

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Al-Husayni Drawing Fire"]

[Text] While the participants at the Madrid conference are still waiting to "reap the fruit" from the talks some time in the future, the Palestinians are already busy setting up an infrastructure for the Palestinian entity to be established in the future. From that viewpoint, they emerged as the main victors from the conference.

If Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir initially planned to create a situation in which the Palestinians would have a secondary role in the conference in the shadow of the Jordanian delegation in order to promote arrangements with the Arab world at their expense, then not only did he not succeed, but he himself changed his mind at some stage and now prefers quick progress with the Palestinians even at the expense of Syria, the earlier favorite. This position was expressed early last week in Cairo by Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat's aide. If at the start of the contacts the Palestinians rushed to Damascus to make sure that Syria does not make any separate arrangements with Israel at their expense, then early last week in Cairo Sha'th reassured the Arabs that the Palestinians would not jump the gun in reaching separate deals with Israel.

There is no doubt that the man to whom the Palestinians owe that achievement is Faysal al-Husayni. He is also the man who, despite being shoved out of the delegation, maintained his senior status in Madrid. According to several sources, al-Husayni's night trip from Madrid to Morocco to meet with 'Arafat not only did not arouse any displeasure among the Israeli delegation, but on the contrary, was seen as a positive effort to break through the deadlock in the contacts caused by Syrian stubbornness. Al-Husayni did not go to Rabat on his own. He took with him two of his colleagues in the Palestinian delegation, and Israel kept mum.

Through hard work al-Husayni managed to assemble a group representing the various PLO factions and presented it to the Americans as the unified command of the intifadah. After a while, the names of the group became known and most—like Dr. Ghassan al- Khatib of the Communist Party (which in the meantime changed its name to the People's Party) and Zahirah Kamal, a supporter of Yasir 'Abd-al-Rabbuh in the territories—were visible in Madrid.

The person who did not go to Madrid was Riyad al-Maliki, who represented the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] in al-Husayni's group. Al-Maliki not only did not keep silent about his opposition to the Madrid talks but made his stand known when the talks with Baker just started. Nevertheless, it should be noted that al-Maliki did not break off contacts with al-Husayni. He and his people make sure that they attend al-Husayni news conferences (although they sit among the public and not on the podium) and from a certain viewpoint, their very existence as a legitimate opposition gives al-Husayni legitimacy. Yesterday, for example, al-Maliki was due to appear in a debate with al-Husayni in Bethlehem. It is doubtful whether the "boss" in Damascus, George Habash, is happy with the legitimacy al-Maliki provides al-Husayni.

In a 1 November interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the opening of the Madrid conference, Habash made a surprise announcement that there were differences of opinion inside the PFLP. "There are some (activists), especially inside the occupied territories, who try to break the ranks of the PFLP," he said. He did not explain, but he might have been referring to al-Maliki and his colleagues.

In other words, al-Husayni succeeded, where many before him had failed, in forming a group representing several streams in the territories which has the potential of crystallizing into a local team to negotiate with Israel.

A similar attempt was made during the political process involving the Cairo dialogue. Al-Husayni had not managed then to put his group together, and the nucleus for the delegation was formed around Radwan Abu-'Ayyash and Jamil al-Tarifi, who conferred with Shamir as preparation for the establishment of the delegation. The failure of the entire move harmed the status of Abu-'Ayyash and al-Tarifi, and al-Husayni made haste to establish his group which would become the alternative.

From this it is obvious that the crystallization of al-Husayni's political clout involved internal struggles which embraced various PLO factions. It was al-Husayni's indecision prior to the Madrid conference and during the deliberations which increased the obstacles facing him at home.

Al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi yesterday convened a news conference in East Jerusalem, during which they dealt with some of the issues which currently concern Palestinian public opinion. One of the issues dealt with the goal of the political committees the Palestinians announced immediately upon the delegation's return from Madrid. 'Ashrawi tripped up and said: I do not know, we were in Madrid. In other words, it was not al-Husayni who established these committees, but the group of intellectuals which had failed to find a place on al-Husayni's delegation and stayed behind. In al-Husayni's absence the group operated as it had previously recommended him to act, but he had not listened to them.

The very fact that it was Ziyad Abu-Zayyad and not al-Husayni who set up these committees has greater significance than it appears at first. The committees were described as the body to assist al-Husayni and the members of the delegation in their job. If that is so, why was Sari Nusaybah, who heads these committees, absent from the reception for al-Husayni and yesterday's news conference, as were most of the committee members? The conclusion is therefore that the committees were not set up to help al-Husayni but to balance his strengthening power: not to help him, but to counterbalance him. It is enough to take a quick look at the list of names of the committee members to arouse surprise: for instance, in the Ramallah committee, the dynamic woman from al-Birah, Samiha Khalil, a known supporter of Nayif Hawatimah. On the eve of the Madrid trip, Khalil convened a news conference in East Jerusalem in which she rejected the entire process with brilliant rhetoric.

While al-Husayni publicly praised the establishment of the committees, he found it difficult to hide his displeasure with them. The committees represent a very specific sector of Palestinians, and they will have to work hard to expand their representation to other sectors, al-Husayni said. He claimed that Israel is trying to establish similar committees and warned that the committees must derive their authority from the negotiating delegation. He spoke about Israel, but issued a veiled message to Nusaybah: Do not establish committees against the wishes of the person who heads the negotiating teams.

The mix-up that characterized the composition of the delegation to Madrid might be reflected in the process of forming the political committees, as well as others, such as the economic committee.

One should pay attention to the restraint with which Israel took the public declaration about the committees. The gathering to discuss the establishment of such committees until a short time ago would have put its initiators behind bars on the charge of "political subversion." Israel now agrees to what it could not and did not want to agree to in the past, not only because of the new reality forced on it by Madrid, but because it sees it as a positive development.

Amman is somewhat concerned about the developments. The Jordanian interest in events in the territories is obvious. Jordan has a clear Palestinian interest because of the demographic structure of the East Bank. Amman must navigate the political process in such as way that Palestinian nationalism, which exploded with such dynamics in the intifadah, does not arouse Jordan's Palestinian inhabitants in a similar way. Jordan therefore moves along a fragile axis. On one hand, it must stress that the Jordan River is the real border between the two banks, one Palestinian and the other Jordanian. On the other hand, it must supervise developments in the territories to prevent a Palestinian uprising at home.

Dr. al-Majali, the head of the Jordanian delegation, said yesterday in an interview with AL-FAJR that Jordan was interested in stressing the unique status of the Palestinians in order to prove the falsity of the Israeli claim that "Jordan is Palestine." It refers to two totally separate entities, one Palestinian and the other Jordanian, he said. Nevertheless, the Jordanian media called al-Husayni's delegation "the Palestinian side of the joint delegation," and they do not view it as an independent Palestinian delegation.

It is hard to say that Jordan is satisfied with the stress al-Husayni places on the political process. It still remembers he refused to accept Baker's requests to go to Amman to coordinate his moves with them. The person who broke the ice between the al-Husayni group and Jordan was Hanan 'Ashrawi, and it was obvious that al-Husayni was dragged behind her for lack of any choice. In Madrid, Jordan did not find it hard to stress the uniqueness of the Palestinians, but the "umbrella" it offered the Palestinians had no value there. Al-Husayni himself declared that there is nothing special in that umbrella and offered to set up similar ties between the Palestinians and the other Arab delegations.

There was a great deal of tension and argument in the Palestinian delegation—some stemming from conflicting personal ambitions, reminiscent of the internal fighting inside Israeli parties, and some the result of different political credos.

One of the more prominent members of the delegation, who was unable to conceal his displeasure at the role allotted to him, was Ilyas Frayj. When the delegation arrived at the Allenby Bridge, he was nowhere to be found. Frayj had a special car waiting for him, with which he left immediately for Bethlehem. Nor was anyone expecting him at the reception in East Jerusalem. Frayj is one of the territories' notables closest to Jordan, and his fury expresses not only his personal displeasure but Jordan's repressed anger at al-Husayni for not allocating Frayj—its main, if not only supporter in the delegation—an appropriate status in Madrid.

The Jordanian response to al-Husayni's actions was not late in coming. When the delegation was in Amman, Jordanian television totally ignored al-Husayni but gave Hanan 'Ashrawi top billing. Jordan opened its television news program with 'Ashrawi two nights ago and immediately followed it up with an interview with 'Arafat. Al-Husayni was not even mentioned.

It is interesting to examine al-Husayni's and 'Ashrawi's statements regarding Jordan. While 'Ashrawi mentions the connections and coordination with Jordan in her interviews, al- Husayni mentions Jordan only when specifically asked. While 'Ashrawi stresses pan-Arab coordination, including the contacts between the Palestinians and Jordan, al-Husayni emphasizes the Palestinians' independence and the centrality of Jerusalem in any political solution. In an interview to the "'Erev Hadash" program on Israeli television, al-Husayni even compared Israel's and Jordan's roles in a political solution. The Palestinians would have an independent state living in peace with its two neighbors, Israel and Jordan, he said. These ideas are not exactly compatible with the decisions made by the Palestine National Council regarding a special relationship with Jordan. During yesterday's news conference, al-Husayni was again asked about relations with Amman, and for the first time he gave a more detailed description. He confirmed that the formula currently being tossed about was a confederation with Jordan. This, he said, had historical and economic reasons. The Palestine National Council had itself decided on this, but the issue would eventually be decided by the Palestinian people in a national referendum: either a confederation or an independent state could be established—everything was still open for the future.

Jordan clearly cannot leave this matter for the future. Unlike al-Husayni, it would like to make the establishment of the confederation a fact, and if it cannot settle the matter with al-Husayni, it would like to close the deal with 'Arafat.

This is where al-Husayni comes up against one of the greatest obstacles in his way. One of the charges leveled against him is that he is establishing an alternative local leadership in the territories—at the expense of PLO-Tunis. None of his attempts to quash this charge have been successful. Even yesterday he was asked whether there was no contradiction between the PLO and the committees. Al-Husayni spewed forth a mouthful of praise for the PLO: The PLO was the real hero behind the Madrid conference; the entire process was made possible thanks only to the PLO. The fact remains, however, that al-Husayni is leading the process now, and no verbal acrobatics can hide this. It is true that Nusaybah's political committees were set up in East Jerusalem while al-Husayni was away, but al-Husayni had begun to establish committees of his own already in Madrid and one cannot discount the possibility that certain elements in the PLO had exhorted Nusaybah to preempt al-Husayni in an attempt to block him.

The inter-Palestinian quarrels do not necessarily bode ill for the future. On the contrary, this is a positive sign. It appears that in its unique dynamics, Palestinian politics bears a greater resemblance to the riotous Israeli political scene than to the uniformity of views characteristic of the neighboring Arab partners.

Hawatimah Asserts DFLP Not Against Conference

JN0911082691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Nov 91 pp 1, 5

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah; "Special to the Jordan Times"]

[Text] Amman—Secretary General of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Nayif Hawatimah arrived in Amman Friday as part of a tour in the countries of the region which will also take him to Morocco.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Hawatimah said his visit to Jordan was aimed at coordinating pan-Arab positions in order to restore Palestinian and Arab rights.

Mr. Hawatimah, who arrived here from Damascus, said: "The Middle East region is on the threshold of a new era during which we hope a genuine and comprehensive peace will be achieved, to guarantee the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

Mr. Hawatimah voiced the DFLP's support for the Middle East peace process and categorically denied that it opposed the Middle East peace conference which opened in Madrid on Oct. 30.

"We are advocates of peace and want to actively participate in the peace process, provided that all Palestinians be represented and that such representation be coordinated with Arab countries," he said.

Israel should stop its settlement activity in the occupied territories "so that negotiations will not end up by the loss of Palestinian soil," he said.

He said he expected the second round of talks between Arab and Israeli delegation to be strenuous and extremely difficult, and called on the Arabs to reconsider their calculations and draw serious plans to push for a just, comprehensive and balanced peace.

He reiterated that the Palestinian uprising was the strongest weapon for the Palestinians and called for supporting it and enhancing national unity. He also called for placing the issue of the Palestinian refugees high on the agenda of the forthcoming round of talks between the joint Jordanian-Palestnian delegation and Israel.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa Expected To Succeed Habash

NC1211164191 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 11 Nov 91 p 7

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] will hold a general conference in an east Arab state soon.

PFLP Secretary General George Habash is expected to quit his responsibilities and secure a symbolic position in the front's leadership. Abu-'Ali Mustafa is expected to take over the Front's general secretariat.

Syria Reportedly To Reopen 3 Fatah Offices

JN1311065991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Nov 91 p 17

[Text] Amman—A Palestinian official has asserted that the talks which a delegation from the Fatah Movement is holding with the Syrian leadership in Syria have resulted in a Syrian decision to allow in principle the reopening of three Fatah offices that have been closed since 1983. These include Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's Office 34 and the Mobilization and Organization Office, which used to be headed by Fatah Central Committee Member Muhammad Ghunaym, alias Abu-Mahir.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Premadasa, 3 SAARC Leaders Continue Talks

Speeches Given at Banquet

BK0811125191 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa held bilateral talks regarding matters of mutual interest with the visiting heads of states of Bangladesh, Begum Zia; the Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom; and Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif at (Visumpara) in Colombo this morning.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa has said that we in the South Asian region should not be marginalized. We should open our doors to each other. Collective economic structures are being built in the West. To live in isolation in our own region would be an unpardonable folly. Therefore, the president said, that it is essential that we devise a collective strategy of cooperation, a strategy which while serving each of us would serve us all. The president was speaking at the state banquet held in honor of the visiting leaders of Bangladesh, the Maldives, and Pakistan.

President Premadasa expressed confidence that the bilateral discussions that will be conducted would mutually benefit the people of our countries. Although our countries are geographically far apart, we have a distinct geopolitical identity. We in South Asia [are] heirs to the civilization dating back to the dawn of history. The great spiritual leaders have spread the message of human brotherhood and equality. They have spread the message of nonviolence and compassion. He pointed out that our region has nurtured, enlightened rulers and perceptive political thinkers and produced creative scientists, poets, and dramatists of international stature. The cement that binds our nations is the quality of our people. We are blessed with an abundance of resources. Our human resource can be our greatest asset. But it must be suitably motivated and properly mobilized. The question before us is how we do this across the South Asian region. The president said that our experience in Sri Lanka has led us to place our faith in our people. Government policies have to be people oriented. The silent majority of our citizens have to become active participants. We are seeking to activate the capacity and the skill of our people in the development process.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in her speech observed the tremendous development that has taken place in Sri Lanka and the country's march toward modernization. She said Sri Lanka's achievements were due to the dynamic efforts of the president. Begum Khaleda pointed out that she was deeply impressed by the president's commitment to social justice which has earned their profound gratitude.

Speaking at the banquet, the president of the Maldives, Maumoon Abudul Gayoom, thanked the president for personally supervising the meticulous and elaborate preparation made for their visit. He referred to the close links he had with Sri Lanka during his childhood days. He said he was happy to say that the friendship and cooperation between the two countries have rapidly grown in recent years. Technical cooperation between the two countries has also expanded in recent years and new avenues in this regard were being explored. Mr. Gayoom assured the positive support of the Maldives in the president's efforts to ensure that peace reigned in Sri Lanka.

The Pakistani prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, at the very outset, conveyed his profound gratitude to the president and the people of Sri Lanka for the hospitality accorded to them. The postponement of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit, especially at such a late hour, was disappointing. He was certain that the setback would be overcome through unity and a display of statesmanship. We should resolve to cooperate among ourselves and to achieve the aspirations of the region. We are not discouraged by recent events. We share a vision of South Asia of human rights and democracy and the vision of eradicating poverty.

The Pakistani prime minister said he stood for peace by resolving issues through negotiations. He emphasized that Pakistan was committed to bilateral discussions with India to resolve Kashmir and all other issues that have been affecting the relations between the two countries.

The prime minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, speaking in response to President Premadasa's address at the reception at the BMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall] in Colombo yesterday, said that Pakistan considered Sri Lanka a true and trusted friend sharing a commitment to principles and justice. We shall never forget your support on the Afghanistan issue and shall link arms with you in peace and in adversity. He pointed out that Sri Lanka had made remarkable strides under the dynamic and far-sighted leadership of the present president.

Referring to the SAARC summit, he said that during the past few days Pakistan shared with Sri Lanka the anguish relating to the postponement of the summit. We deeply appreciate the preparations that the government and the people had so carefully and meticulously made for the success of the event. Its postponement at the eleventh hour has been deeply disappointing to all of us. He noted that the people and government of Pakistan are steadfast friends of Sri Lanka and Pakistan would always stand by the island to ensure the eventual success of the SAARC summit. Mr. Sharif claimed that the traditional and historic links that bind the people of the two countries have been strengthened by shared values and common perceptions on global and regional issues. He paid special tribute to the courageous people of Sri Lanka for their resilience and fortitude in their efforts to overcome the turmoil that has cast a shadow across the beautiful country.

Nawaz Sharif Meets SAARC Counterparts

BK0811162891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has had separate talks with presidents of Sri Lanka and Maldives and the prime minister of Bangladesh in Sri Lanka today. Matters concerning SAARC and bilateral interest were discussed at the talks.

The prime minister and the Sri Lankan president at their talks agreed on the need to engage in active bilateral cooperation for future success of the SAARC. The Sri

Lankan president, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, appreciated the stand taken by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, on the question of SAARC summit and his decision to visit Sri Lanka. The two leaders at the talks agreed that the SAARC should not be allowed to suffer and the future summit should be held in a business-like manner. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif briefed extentensively Mr. Premadasa on the situation in the held Kashmir, human rights violations there, and the state of negotiations with India on matters concerning the two countries in addition to his proposal for a nuclear nonproliferation treaty in South Asia. They decided that a joint ministerial commission of Pakistan and Sri Lanka should meet with 50 percent representation to the private sector.

The prime minister during his talks with President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of Maldives also discussed issues concerning the postponement of the SAARC summit. They agreed on making efforts to move away from the setback that the organization had received and observed that before postponement of the summit some actual progress had been made at the meetings of foreign ministers and officials of the organization. The Maldives president at the talks with the prime minister thanked him for Pakistan's assistance of 36 million rupees for building the parliament house in Male.

In his talks with the prime minister of Bangladesh, Begum Khaleda Zia, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, discussed the issues concerning the SAARC and matters of bilateral interest. The two leaders picked up the thread where they had left their discussion at Harare summit conference of the Commonwealth countries.

The prime minister accompanied by the Sri Lankan president today visited Kandy town, about 116 km from Colombo. [passage omitted]

Premadasa, Sharif, Zia Talks Detailed

BK0911120891 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] The prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, had talks with Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa on a wide range of bilateral issues and other matters of mutual interest. The two leaders agreed that they needed to take measures to enhance trade between their countries. They observed that, if the necessary steps were taken, they could meet each other's requirements, which would reduce their dependence on outside resources. They agreed that joint economic commissions required political guidance if they were to be effective. The prime minister of Pakistan felt that ideally such a commission should have majority private sector representation in relation to official representation, to be able to pursue effective follow up action. President Premadasa emphasized that political guidelines at the highest level were needed to be set for the joint economic commission to be result oriented. The Sri Lankan and Pakistani leaders agreed to mandate their ministers dealing with finance and foreign affairs to work out an early program of practical bilateral economic cooperation. They felt that progress could be reviewed on a regular basis. The two leaders discussed developments in SAARC and agreed that rules relating to SAARC meeting needed to be reviewed.

The president of the Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, as chairman of the fifth SAARC summit took the opportunity of the state visit to brief President Ranasinghe Premadasa on the consultations now being undertaken in respect of the sixth SAARC summit. He said he would consult with other member states on the possibility of holding a one-day businesslike meeting of SAARC leaders in Colombo soon to conclude the conference process which had commenced with the meetings of the programming committee of senior officials, the standing committee of foreign secretaries, and the Council of Ministers of the SAARC. The Maldivian leader and Sri Lanka's president conducted an indepth review of the bilateral relations between the two countries and discussed how much relations can be further strengthened in all areas of cooperation. The prospects for the expansion on trade and economic cooperation were also discussed in the context of the Maldives-Sri Lanka joint economic commission. Sri Lanka indicated its intention to establish a Sri Lanka center in Male to exhibit a full range of Sri Lankan products. This will help to promote mutually-beneficial trade relations, travel and tourism, and banking and insurance services. The two leaders also touched on immigration issue. They agreed that there will be greater coordination between the immigration authorities of the two countries. It was agreed that efforts will be made toward standardizing customs and immigration procedures. The president of the Maldives stated that he would be in a position to announce visa-free travel for bonafide Sri Lankan workers as well as professionals in the field of education and hotel industry. Considering the threat posed both the countries by cross border terrorism, they agreed that the Maldivian and Sri Lankan intelligence authorities involved in the suppression of terrorism should liaise more closely. An early meeting of the relevant authorities would be arranged. Environmental issues of concern to Maldives and Sri Lanka were considered and the two leaders briefed each other on efforts being made by their respective governments to preserve the ecological balance. In this context, they agreed to cooperate with each other and to share each other's experiences.

The president of the Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, has expressed sincere gratitude for the most warm and affectionate welcome and the gracious hospitality extended to him and his wife and to the members of their delegation. He has conveyed this to the president and Mrs. Hema Premadasa, and to the Government of Sri Lanka. The Maldivian leader has further said that the bilateral discussions which he held with the president will further contribute to accelerating the momentum of the growing relations of close friendship and cooperation which have been the hallmark of Sri Lanka and the Maldives for a very long time.

The president has informed the prime minister of Bangladesh, Begum Khaleda Zia, that although Muslims constituted only a minority of the country, they played a crucial role between the two major communities--the Sinhalese and the Tamils. During official talks with Begum Khaleda in Colombo yesterday, the president also told her that the Muslims of Sri Lanka were the goodwill bridges and the goodwill ambassadors. He informed her of the tremendous enthusiasm and goodwill that had been generated in Sri Lanka by her visit. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia referred to the traditionally-excellent relations between the two countries. This had been further strengthened and developed by the setting up of a joint economic commission between the two countries. The prime minister proposed that regional cooperation will be given a fillip with the introduction of direct air link between Dhaka and Colombo. The two leaders agreed that the aviation authorities of the two countries should work out the specific arrangements keeping in mind the economic viability of such a venture. They discussed the matters relating to SAARC. The president referred to the setting up of a Poverty Commission for South Asia which would not only study the phenomenon of poverty but also deal with the implementation of programs designed to alleviate poverty. He commended Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Dal-Bhath [lentils and rice] proposal to guarantee a square meal per day for every individual in South Asian region, pointing out that it had the same objective as the Janasaviya [welfare] program. The president explained that the higher educational institions in Sri Lanka were to the restructured to attempt to satify the thirst for knowledge and the pressure on university intake. Twenty five university colleges were to be affiliated to seven national universities. He said he favored the setting up of a South Asian Resources Bank to pool the expertise and talent available in the region on which countries could draw according to their requirements. The prime minister welcomed this proposal for the exchange of personnel and observed that it reflected the ideals that led to the formation of SAARC. The two leaders discussed ways and means of making SAARC more effective as well as questions relating to the sixth summit.

Leaders Seek SAARC Rule Changes

BK0911015791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] President Premadasa of Sri Lanka and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan have said that the rules relating to the SAARC summit meetings need to be reviewed. A Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry communique issued in Colombo last night said the two leaders discussed the developments in SAARC and agreed on the need for reviewing the rules.

Speaking to newsmen at Dhaka airport on her return from Colombo, the Bangladeshi prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, has denied that there was any big brotherly attitude [on the part] of India. She said we are all equal as far as SAARC is concerned. She said the exact date to hold the postponed summit will be finalized after consultations with the leaders of India, Nepal, and Bhutan.

Nawaz Sharif Seeks December SAARC Summit

BK0911025991 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif says he held useful meetings and talks with Sri Lankan President Premadasa, Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. He was talking to newsmen at a gathering of Pakistani citizens in Colombo last evening.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif expressed regret that the SAARC summit had to be postponed because of the abstention of only one head of state. However, he expressed the hope that the postponed summit will be held in Sri Lanka before the end of next month. He said it can be a working summit.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said all member countries except India had accepted the Bhutanese king's excuse for not attending the summit. The summit would not have had to be postponed if India had attended it. The prime minister said SAARC has great importance for the region, and therefore it is important to maintain and improve the organization.

When asked if India wants to establish its hegemony in the region by such acts, the prime minister replied that Pakistan, being a sovereign and independent country, will definitely not accept such a situation.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka has proposed that the SAARC summit be held in Colombo soon. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Colombo yesterday that the summit, pending approval by other SAARC countries, will replace the one that was postponed at the last minute. The postponed summit was scheduled to begin on 7 November.

Talking to newsmen on her return to Dhaka from Colombo, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said an understanding has been reached in Sri Lanka that the postponed summit should be held this year. Bangladesh will take all possible steps to hold the summit, if necessary. She said President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, who is also the current SAARC chairman, will announce the new date after consultations with other member countries. The Bangladeshi prime minister said she held very useful talks with Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and the presidents of Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Summit Postponement 'Unfortunate' Event

BK1011103091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Bangladesh has very clearly and categorically stated its position on giving a more active and dynamic shape to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation—SAARC. The postponement of the sixth seven-nation SAARC summit, scheduled for last Thursday in Colombo, is certainly not a very welcome development. It is all the more unfortunate that the summit was postponed at the last moment. Sri Lanka made extensive arrangements for the summit. The SAARC foreign ministers and the foreign secretaries completed all preparatory meetings where important decisions were taken for consideration at the summit conference. It was at this stage that the summit was postponed following lack of consensus on the question of representation on behalf of Bhutanese King Jigme Singye Wangchuk who earlier expressed his inability to attend the summit.

The postponement of the sixth SAARC summit in this context has therefore been an unfortunate event. In the wake of the postponement of the annual summit of the SAARC states in Colombo, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visited Sri Lanka on an official visit. The visit itself is a reflection of Bangladesh's commitment to the principles of regional cooperation. On her return to Dhaka, Prime Minister Begum Zia has expressed optimism about holding a business summit of SAARC states in Colombo within this year. Current SAARC Chairman Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives has been entrusted with the responsibility to remain in touch with the leaders of the three countries who were not in Colombo. This was decided by the leaders of four other SAARC countries—Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Maldives—who were in Colombo to reiterate their support to the efforts to attain the objectives of this regional association in South Asia.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on her return home from a two-day official visit to Colombo has expressed confidence that the SAARC would move ahead and make progress surrounding all problems. While in Colombo, she called upon the leaders of the South Asian nations to play a positive role in making the region's noblest aim, and best of in the world, more successful [sentence as heard]. She made this call while speaking in response to welcome address given by President Premadasa of Sri Lanka at the state reception at Bandaranaike International Conference Hall hosted in honor of the heads of state and government of Maldives, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, who were on a bilateral visit to Colombo.

One would like to note that the SAARC was built in the first planned to find common grounds for cooperation. On its part, Dhaka initiated the concept of regionalism for over 1 billion South Asian people from the firm conviction that collaborative efforts and the pooling of resources on government development issues will accelerate the progress for the seven-nation SAARC. The organization has made substantial progress in binding individual and the world in human and natural resources development in the (?mainstream) of regional progress. The achievements in case of agricultural research, weather forecasting, and rural development projects—like nonformal education, vocational training, and improved health services—point to the fact that regional cooperation as a concept has caught the imagination of the vast majority of development planners and workers.

In the context of the changed global political environment, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, in response to a welcoming address by Sri Lankan President Premadasa, underscored the need for widening the scope of SAARC. The end of superpower rivalry makes it easier for regional cooperation to grow. Regionalism holds in this context the prospect of using to the best advantage the new opportunities created by the relaxation of global tension. As the initiator of the concept of SAARC and as a country that probably and justifiably has done most to bring the regional body into being, Bangladesh would thus like to see SAARC overcome all problems and grow stronger.

Algeria

FIS Leader on 'Illegal' Aspects of Elections

LD1211214391 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] We return to the legislative elections and the participation or non-participation of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. Mr. Abdelkader Hachani held a news conference this evening. Here is our correspondent's report:

[Correspondent] The FIS will participate in the forthcoming legislative elections in all the constituencies, a total of 430 throughout the provinces of the homeland.

In this news conference, Mr. Hachani dealt with several aspects concerning the electoral laws and his concept of the political situation; he called for a clean-up. He described the critical phase through which the country is passing as decisive, a real crisis.

Hachani added that the FIS showed its good intentions by expressing its views on the legal framework of the elections. Mr. Hachani considered some measures as illegal, particularly the rejection by the administrative authorities of the candidacies of prisoners in general and the Cheikhs in particular [Cheikh Abassi Madani and Cheikh Ali Benhadj] despite the fact that this contradicts Articles 42 and 47 of the Constitution.

FIS Participation Undecided

LD1311092191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The first phase of the general election operation ended yesterday with the closing of the registration of the candidacies. The Interior Ministry recorded 5,800 candidates who will contest 430 seats. Moreover, contrary to expectations, the current leader of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], Mr. Hachani, did not announce yesterday whether his party will take part in the elections or plans to boycott them. Mr. Hachani stated, however, that FIS did indeed register its candidates and has nominated the detainees, including Abassi Madani and Ali Benhadj.

In reply to a question on FIS participation in the elections, Mr. Hachani was not very clear as he gave an answer that was understood to mean both yes and no. He indicated that the final decision will be taken by the FIS Consultative Council soon.

Observers believe that FIS hesitation in taking a position on the elections confirms the existence of serious rifts within the Consultative Council between those who support participation and those who are demanding a boycott.

Here is what Mr. Hachani said to correspondent Hamza Wahib about the FIS position on the elections:

[Begin recording] [Hachani] The announcement of the FIS position falls within the competence of the Consultative Council. The Provisional National Executive Bureau, however, will make this suggestion to the council. I believe that the Consultative Council will meet in the very near future to make a final decision on this issue. Then, God willing, its position will be announced to the press.

[Wahib] Mr. Hachani, we have learned that the registration of the candidacies of the FIS leaders who are in detention was rejected. What is your reaction?

[Hachani] We strongly insist on the nomination of our distinguished leaders and will not give in on this issue. We have filed legal suits to maintain them as our prime candidates. We have also got in touch with all the officials in charge, including the president of the Republic. We asked him to intervene personally to resolve this ambiguity. This is in fact a blatant violation of articles in the Constitution that clearly state that anyone who has not been proven guilty will enjoy all political rights, including permission to vote and to run for election.

[Wahib] Some people consider that the nomination of some of the FIS leaders in detention is solely for the purpose of obtaining parliamentary immunity for them.

[Hachani] The nomination of our distinguished leaders in a large number of constituencies was based on attributes and convictions [as heard] which defined who is the most suitable candidate for such a fateful operation as far as Algeria is concerned; it did not stem from narrow political calculations. We only presented our leaders as candidates because they are, at the level of the various constituencies, the most suitable candidates. In fact, they met all the conditions which the Provisional National Executive Bureau defined as essential for nomination. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak Tells Deputies No 'Crisis' With Libya

NC1311121091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that negotiations for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East will be difficult. This, he said, requires patience and determination until peace is attained.

President Mubarak added that Palestinians, the main party to the issue, have started to talk about their cause at the Madrid conference, and the countries concerned have begun the march of peace and dialogue without abandoning any of their rights. He affirmed that wars do not provide final solutions to disputes among states, as these can be resolved by dialogue and efforts toward peace.

President Mubarak made these remarks during a meeting last night with National Democratic Party [NDP] parliamentarians on the eve of the new People's Assembly session.

Safwat al-Sharif, information minister and NDP assistant secretary general, said that President Mubarak noted during his meeting with NDP parliamentarians that the Gulf crisis is not over yet and that the effects it left behind must be remedied. President Mubarak emphasized that Egypt's relations on the Arab and international levels are outstanding. Egypt, he added, is dealing with all countries in a way that suits each country while maintaining its sovereignty, preserving its dignity, and achieving the people's interests.

President Mubarak denied there is a crisis in Egyptian-Libyan relations, noting that some people fail to grasp the depth of the ties linking the two countries. He noted that individual mistakes here and there will not affect the march of the two peoples. In this respect, President Mubarak noted that he is in constant touch with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

During the meeting with the NDP parliamentarians, President Mubarak stressed Egypt's determination to seek economic reforms. He noted that there is a price tag on reforms, but the Egyptian people are capable of tolerating the burdens of the reforms and will pass this stage. President Mubarak denied press reports that the People's Assembly will be dissolved. He pointed out that the assembly is performing its duty and that its members were freely elected and represent the will of the people. President Mubarak noted the importance of stability within legislative and executive institutions, adding that he is eager to maintain stability in these institutions because otherwise there would be no freedom or democratic practice.

President Mubarak underlined the principle of freedom of the press. He emphasized that the press in Egypt is free and that nobody is interfering in its affairs or its right to criticize. However, he noted the need for this criticism to be objective, not to reach the point of slander, and to observe ethics and traditions, which represent the riches of Egyptian society.

President Mubarak mentioned the decisionmaking process in Egypt. He pointed out that decisions are made after scientific study and research and on the advice of experts and specialists, in consideration of the people's will. The president noted in this respect that the age of unilateral decisionmaking is over, because any decision must be marked by wisdom and must not endanger the people's interests.

Mubarak Receives Saudi Minister, Fahd Message

NC1011141891 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal today in a meeting Foreign Minister Musa also attended. Prince al-Faysal delivered a message to President Mubarak from his brother, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques. The message deals with ongoing bilateral coordination over various issues of mutual interest.

Saudi Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Cairo this morning for a visit of several days during which he will attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatory countries, scheduled to begin tomorrow.

Editorials, Columnists on Madrid Talks, Israel

Arabs Warned About 'Marginal Issues'

NC1011075691 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 4 Nov 91 p 7

["Without Problems" column by Ahmad Zayn]

[Text] It appears that media coverage of the peace conference was characterized by emotions and irritability. I do not know what those emotional and irritable people were expecting. Were they expecting Israel to declare at the opening session that it would withdraw from the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan, and Jerusalem and that the whole thing would be over in a few minutes? With all that is known about Israel and its way of negotiating, how could anything less than a tug of war be expected?

The first step was to have the parties sit together. That has now been done. The second step is to discuss the existing problems. Israel will try to get rid of the principle of land for peace by offering financial compensation or other maneuvers that the Arabs will reject. The important thing to remember in all this is that negotiations will take a long time and be a tug of war. The Arabs must be ready for this. They should not get emotional or angry but should instead foil the Israeli maneuvers, make counterproposals, and prevent the conference from deviating from the main issue. Trading accusations will not help anything. The principal goal will get lost and the conference will be bogged down by marginal issues. This is what Israel wants.

World public opinion supports us now. We must exploit this by explaining to the world that right is on our side and that Israel is an intransigent aggressor that does not want peace. This can be done by concentrating only on the principal issue. If emotions lead us to the labyrinth of trading accusations and insults, we must realize that we are on the wrong path. We have traded insults for 40 years and nothing has happened. We want to end the problem, establish the state of Palestine, and restore the land to its owners.

The Palestinians had a golden opportunity to obtain autonomy rule 10 years ago in the Camp David negotiations. But they lost that opportunity by doing stupid things. They now want to get it back. Let us not squander this opportunity; it is the last one.

Debate on Madrid, Open Society Urged

NC1011125291 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
6 Nov 91 p 14

[Mustafa Amin's column: "A Thought"]

[Text] Police have arrested 15 students on charges of opposing the Madrid conference. Personally, I support the conference and consider it an opportunity to present our case to the world; however, I believe that every citizen has the right to oppose the Madrid conference. Participating in the Madrid conference is not a matter of treason, and every citizen is entitled to his own views on his country's affairs. We should encourage citizens to express their views, whether or not we agree.

In Israel, demonstrations are going on in support of the conference and in opposition to it. How can the Israelis enjoy the right to object while we cannot?

Personally, I believe that the demonstrations organized in our country to oppose the conference strengthen, rather than weaken, the position of the Egyptian negotiators. It is in our interest to let Israel know that part of Egyptian society opposes the Madrid conference, that they refuse to sit with the Jews and believe that what has been taken by force must be restored by force, and that we are making strenuous efforts to persuade those objectors to try to negotiate with Israel, so that if they succeed we will be spared the hardships of fighting; and if they fail, we will have the weapons to resist Israel.

We do not want unanimity in our country; we do not want to march obediently in a line of oppressed citizens behind the government. We want every citizen to have his own respected viewpoint. I believe that all Arab states will benefit from this conference, regardless of whether Israel agrees or disagrees, resorts to its well-known games and maneuvers, or accepts the fait accompli.

We have gone too far in accusing each other of treason. Whenever we disagree about something we start to lynch whoever opposes our views. We can never be right all the time. Evidence to this will be found in the fact that many of those who used to curse al-Sadat are now cheering him, although al-Sadat is now lying helplessly in his grave, unable to reward anyone or put those who opposed him in jail.

The first precondition for democracy is to respect those who disagree with you; to respect the opposite view in the same way you want others to respect yours. You may object to the Madrid conference today and support it tomorrow. There is no harm in changing one's mind if events show that pessimists were more farsighted than optimists. No one will sell the country to the Jews and no Egyptian will relinquish any Egyptian or Arab right. We are all patriots no matter how diverse our views.

Israeli, Syrian Behavior Criticized

NC1011132591 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
5 Nov 91 p 20

[Anis Mansur column, "Stands"]

[Text] The United States did all that Israel demanded.

The Israelis said no to the display of the Palestinian flag because they do not recognize a state called Palestine. None of the countries' flags were raised during the conference. They said that the Palestinians should not wear their national dress; that is, they should not put on the kufiyah [Palestinian headdress], trousers, and jackets. The Palestinian delegation agreed.

The Israelis said that if a single Palestinian said he had links with the PLO during or before the conference or if there was proof that anyone had links with the PLO, they would withdraw. The Palestinians said nothing. This is a fallacy. Israel knows that the Palestinian delegation obeys the orders of Yasir 'Arafat, the leader of the Palestinian people everywhere. The important thing is that no one recognize this publicly. So be it.

Shamir incited the Syrian delegation to reply. Even though the tone of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' comments was calm, his words were violent. In his reply to Shamir, he went too far. Shamir lured al-Shar' into making a personal attack, annoying Baker and the session chairman.

That is when the Arabs and Israel knew that the unknown quantity in the conference was the head of the Syrian delegation and that if Israel wanted to sabotage the conference it would channel all its efforts toward attacking Syria. The press attacked Syria. Ben-Aharon, a man with a vicious tongue, attacked President al-Asad personally. The Syrian foreign minister stood up and attacked Shamir personally and showed the world his picture; the picture of a short man wanted by the police for terrorism and the murder of Bernadotte.

When Sara Doron, the only woman in the Israeli delegation, wanted to shake hands with one of the Syrian delegation members, he refused. When an Israeli television correspondent attempted to do the same, all the Syrian delegation members refused to shake his hand. Tomorrow or the day after, they will embrace and kiss each other. Let the competitors compete.

The Palestinian delegation shook hands with everybody.

No one knows yet if there are still more ways to sabotage the road instead of paving it with peace. There will be problems as long as there are meetings. A step forward has been taken, however.

Opposition to Madrid Condemned

NC1111150191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Commentary by Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb: "Give the People of Palestine the Freedom To Act"]

[Text] Finally, after about half a century, the peace process has been launched along a course with a definite beginning and end. The impossible has become reality. Arabs and Israelis sat down at a negotiating table. If it is true that doubts, suspicions, tensions, and insecurities still exist, then it is also true that the Madrid meeting was the natural start to remove some of the effects of the past and prepare emotions for accepting what was rejected in the past.

The late President Anwar al-Sadat once said he visited Jerusalem to break the psychological barriers between the Arabs and Israel. This is true despite the fact that many in the Arab world considered this story about psychological barriers to be mere rhetoric that lacked objectivity.

We do not believe that any of the Arab delegations are more enthusiastic about and welcoming of the Madrid conference than the Palestinian delegation, since this delegation sees the Madrid conference as a unique opportunity to sit with the Israelis to negotiate, talk, and come closer to the essence of the problems burdening both sides. Undoubtedly, the Palestinians are a good match for the Israelis in dialogue, maneuvering, and negotiation. We need not worry about the Palestinians when it comes to Israeli extremism or craftiness. The two sides are patient and enjoy the ability to confront, rally together, and persevere.

The Palestinian delegation at the Madrid conference found an exceptional opportunity to explain the dimensions of the question of Palestine before international media in a good way and with new style and objectivity. We believe this is the first time in the history of the Palestine question that international media have shown an interest in portraying this cause and defining the rights of the Palestinian people with complete neutrality. This is considered one of the benefits of the Madrid conference.

Palestinian intelligence succeeded in preventing anyone from provoking the Palestinian spokeswoman during her news conferences. In addition, the Palestinian delegation's adviser stated yesterday that he will ask the Israeli Government to grant the Palestinian delegation immunity from being searched. It is illogical for Israeli police to storm the homes of the Palestinian delegation members when they have special documents on the conference and ideas regarding the negotiations and their future, which would then reveal the secrets of Palestinian projects and expose them to leaks to the other side.

Undoubtedly, the call made by the Palestinian delegation's adviser will be heard, if not by Israel, then by the United States, and this request will be taken into consideration. Statements by the members of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid conference, as well as statements by ranking Palestinian figures who are active in many places in the Arab world, indicate that Palestinians are satisfied with the results of the first round and that the conference has opened a door for them to reach a positive settlement. Further evidence is the grand popular reception the delegation was accorded upon its return from Madrid, when it was showered with flowers while the people waved olive branches.

Nevertheless, there are some in the Arab world who claim to be more interested in the Palestine question than the Palestinians themselves. They claim to be devoted to the interests of the Palestinian people more than the people concerned. They claim to know what is being arranged for the PLO more than Yasir 'Arafat. These people have been active in issuing protests against the conference. They also published leaflets describing the conference as a treacherous sell-out of the Palestine question. They added that armed struggle and revolutionary action must continue until Palestine is returned to its rightful owners.

Such statements have nothing to do with reality. They are mere political maneuvers to serve certain goals that have nothing to do with the Palestine question.

At one point during his conspiracy against Kuwait and the Arab people, Saddam Husayn attempted to claim that the road to Jerusalem goes through Kuwait and that settling the Gulf crisis depends on settling the Middle East crisis. Now, some emerging groups are hoisting the banners of jihad and claiming that the Madrid conference is a betrayal of Palestine.

These people must grant the people of Palestine their legitimate right to express their interests away from all the pressures and provocations that have harmed their cause for over half a century.

Israeli Actions, Shamir's Stance Viewed

NC1211112991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Nov (MENA)—[passage omitted] Under the headline "Negotiations Here and Constant Aggression There," AL- AKHBAR writes in its editorial today: This is probably the first time in the history that official talks between the representatives of warring parties have come together to resolve their differences while one party's tanks and planes stage regular and incessant aggression against the citizens, territory, and possessions of another party taking part in the same talks. In addition, the talks are held under the slogan of searching for a permanent peace for all.

The paper stresses that this is undoubtedly Israel's policy, which ignores international traditions and principles. It says: Israel is acting as if it were above every international law and norm and has the right to violate all charters. It is carrying out attacks everywhere in an independent and sovereign country, killing whomever it wants, and demolishing the homes of peaceful citizens.

AL-AKHBAR goes on to say that this tragedy, or more accurately this farce, has been going on for years, not only inside the occupied territories but on Lebanese territory Israel refuses to leave. It adds that Israel rejects any form of peace that would make it abandon the areas it seized by force in 1967.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says that Israel's insistence on continuing its crimes during the negotiations, for which the international community exerted strenuous efforts to prepare, gives pessimists a strong reason to believe the Madrid conference will not yield any results.

Under the headline "An Incorrect Equation," AL-AHRAM writes in its editorial that Shamir has said on television that the intifadah must stop but that settlements will not. This shows that there is nothing new in Shamir's stand, the paper says, adding: He is against the intifadah and supports building settlements. What is new here is that he has associated the two things in one interview, though this is impossible to do in reality.

The paper adds: The building of settlements is not done in a vacuum. Settlements are built on lands inhabited by human beings, by Palestinians. If they see their lands wrested from them and given to others who come from abroad, their natural and human reaction is to rebel, carry out an intifadah with prior organization, ideological affiliation, or membership in any organization or front.

No proof is needed that the intifadah was a spontaneous reaction to the daily violent Israeli behavior and the repeated provocations in the form of attacks, detention, imprisonment, dispersal, and torture, the paper adds. Turning into a political movement does not mean that the intifadah has lost its innate roots but means that it has turned into a resistance against the conditions of occupation which is the primary cause for the policy of arrogant power. The paper adds that the intifadah is an internal popular revolution against arrogant force, injustice, and repression, that it will continue as long as the violent practices exist, and that it will not be weakened if the links between it and the outside world are severed.

The paper asks: How can a man as intelligent and experienced as Shamir forget these simple facts? How can he fall into this confusion and miscalculate the issues in such a shameful way? In conclusion, the paper says: Shamir is a man who has dreams; however, there are no illusions or hopes in politics. The reality is that halting the settlements and restoring rights are the only way to end the intifadah.

Shamir Criticized for Bus Attack Remarks

NC0911104591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0612 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has criticized Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir for his comment on the attack on an Israeli bus, in which he said: We know how to strike back at the attackers and their leaders.

In its editorial today, the paper says the tendency of the man responsible not only for the Israeli Government but also its role in the peace process at the negotiating table to issue an overt threat to retaliate merely shows that he is using his position of responsibility to promote extremism and violence. The paper adds that this surely runs contrary to his responsibility in both cases, because he resembles the (?head) of a state who has come to make peace but who is led by terrorists who reject peace.

The paper asks: Why does Shamir not threaten in a similar way Israeli extremists who, through their terrorist acts, provoke even those who have no feelings? The paper notes that Shamir could, if he so chose, ask them not to commit acts of sabotage or provocations at a time when the peace conference is being convened and direct talks are being held and could hasten to arrest all violators; instead, he chooses to threaten only the other party.

The paper asks: Does Shamir not realize that his threats might help trigger conflict and further inflame the passions of those who have always sought to foment hatred and provocations?

Concluding its editorial, the paper emphasizes that this issue requires some degree of wisdom.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

NC0811053791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek arrived in Cairo tonight on a three-day visit to Egypt. He will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on issues of mutual interest, the Middle East situation in light of the current efforts to achieve peace, and bilateral ties and ways of promoting them in various spheres.

Confers With Foreign Minister

NC0911145991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Official talks between Egypt and Brazil opened at the Foreign Ministry today. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa led Egypt's delegation to the talks and Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek led his country's delegation.

The two sides discussed international issues of common concern and developments in the Middle East in light of efforts to accelerate the peace process. Bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them in all fields were also discussed.

Following the talks, 'Amr Musa said that the two sides discussed regional and international issues of common concern, including Third World problems, as well as bilateral relations.

'Amr Musa said that Third World countries should play a role in the new phase and as part of the new international order. He added that the Brazilian delegation held meetings with Egyptian businessmen and that two cooperation agreements will be signed tonight.

'Amr Musa said that President Husni Mubarak will receive the Brazilian foreign minister tonight and that the latter will hand him a message from the Brazilian president.

For his part, Minister Rezek said that the talks confirmed the desire of both countries to bolster their bilateral relations. He added that the agreements signed today are evidence of this. [Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1248 GMT on 9 November carries a report on the talks quoting Minister Rezek as saying that "a number of agreements concerning agricultural research and cultural aspects were signed during the session."]

The Brazilian foreign minister met separately with Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign affairs, and People's Assembly speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur.

Meets With Ghali

NC0911144491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1132 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign affairs, today received Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Talks dealt with ways to promote bilateral relations and with preparations for the Group of 15's second summit for dialogue among the countries of the south, scheduled to be held in Caracas, Venezuela, late this month.

The two sides reviewed world problems, foremost of which is the Middle East problem and the issues of debt and environment, in light of Brazil's hosting next year of a summit on preserving the environment.

The conferees also discussed setting up a council for Egyptian and Brazilian businessmen to support economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and encourage the flow of investments and capital.

Received by Mubarak

NC0911165791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1517 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received at the presidential palace in Heliopolis this afternoon Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek, who is currently visiting Egypt. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Musa stated after the meeting that the Brazilian handed President Mubarak a message from Brazilian President Fernando de Mello Collor containing an invitation to visit Brazil. President Mubarak accepted the invitation; the date of the visit will be set later.

He said that discussions dealt with peace in the Middle East, Latin America, the Third World, and general conditions in the world. Bilateral relations, particularly trade relations, and ways to strengthen them were also discussed. He noted that the Brazilian foreign minister is accompanied by a number of businessmen who met with Egyptian businessmen. They will sign an agreement on joint projects on Monday.

Joint Communique Issued

NC0911212291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Egypt and Brazil have noted their agreement on the need to continue efforts to achieve a comprehensive peaceful settlement in the Middle East based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. They also affirmed the need to reject the principle of acquiring territory by force and emphasized the principle of "land for peace." This came in an Egyptian-Brazilian joint communique issued today on the talks Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek held with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Egypt and Brazil reaffirmed their support for the peace conference recently held in Madrid and attended by all the parties concerned with a view to establishing a just and permanent peace in the region based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, including their right to establish their own homeland, and the right of all the states in the region to live in security within internationally recognized borders.

The joint communique said that the two countries affirm in this regard the importance of confidence-building measures, including the freezing of settlement-building in the Arab territories occupied since 1967 in return for freezing the Arab boycott of Israel, as proposed by President Husni Mubarak.

The two countries called on the governments concerned to avoid any measures that could obstruct the peace process in the region.

Egypt and Brazil expressed their support for all efforts to maintain world peace and for President Mubarak's initiative to make the Middle East a zone free of all types of weapons of mass destruction.

The two countries reviewed the development of the serious world economic crises that hinder progress in the developing countries, prevent achievement of their aspirations, lead to a deterioration in their living conditions, and expose their people to danger.

On bilateral relations, the two countries expressed their interest in strengthening and developing cooperation between them in political, economic, cultural, and scientific fields. In this regard, the two foreign ministers decided that the first meeting of the joint Egyptian-Brazilian committee, which began the day before yesterday, will discuss ways to pursue more vigorously implementation of existing bilateral agreements and to hold further political contacts between the two governments on all levels.

In conclusion, the communique says that Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek expressed his government's support for the nomination of Dr. Butrus Ghali to the post of UN secretary general. He also extended an invitation to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to visit Brazil and expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded him and the delegation accompanying him by the government and people of Egypt.

Departs

NC1011084391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0658 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek left Cairo for home this morning, ending a three-day visit to Egypt during which he conveyed a message from the Brazilian president to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The message contained an invitation for President Mubarak to attend a summit meeting on development and the environment, due to be held in Brazil in June.

In a departure statement, the Brazilian minister said that President Mubarak asked him to convey the greetings of the Egyptian Government and people to the Brazilian president and people.

During his visit, Rezek discussed ways to promote bilateral relations and increase trade between the two countries.

He was seen off at the airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Nihad al-'Asqalani and the Brazilian ambassador to Cairo.

Deputy Accused of Drug Trafficking Said To Flee

NC1211162291 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Nov 91 pp 1, 8

[Hamdi Hamadah report]

[Excerpts] Interior Ministry organs are continuing their search for 'Ayid Sulayman Abu-Sabil, the People's Assembly member who has fled. The deputy and a number of his relatives disappeared a few days before a decision was issued forbidding him to leave the country. He also sold most of his property and real estate and closed his bank accounts during the socialist public prosecutor's investigation and before the decision was made to seize his assets.

Egyptian airports and ports received the order banning the deputy from travel only last Tuesday. Foreign news agencies confirmed he succeeded in fleeing the country before the decision banning his travel was issued. Security sources believe he is likely to have fled to Israel via Sinai in view of his suspicious ties with Israel's Mosad. [passage omitted]

AL-WAFD has learned that Deputy 'Ayid Sulayman owns industrial and contracting firms in Germany and Sweden run by his brother-in-law, Ahmad Salamah Lafi, who is currently in jail on drug trafficking charges. AL-WAFD also has learned that the prosecutor's office has not yet investigated how he was allowed to sell his property fraudulently to his relatives to evade the decision to seize his property. The prosecutor's office also did not investigate the method or possibility of seizing his overseas property. The prosecutor's office has seized property and funds estimated at 10 million Egyptian pounds—out of a total estimated at 300 million Egyptian pounds—or 4 percent of his property.

'Normal Life' Said Restored to Libyan Border

NC1211150491 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Nov 91 pp 1, 10

[Mahmud Sadiq report from Tubruq]

[Excerpts] Normal life has been restored to the Egyptian-Libyan border. Libya's youth have praised President Husni Mubarak's efforts to achieve an honorable solution to the Palestinian issue. They emphasized that they have realized the reality and dimensions of the issue through President Mubarak's speech at the ceremony marking the centennial of Cairo University's College of Science. The Libyan youth denounced 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud's statements, in which he attacked Egypt and its leadership.

Some Libyan goods started to cross the al-Sallum border point and the number of Egyptians and Libyans crossing the point has increased.

A Libyan security source in Tubruq has stated that the Secretariat of Justice is prepared to accept all complaints against the behavior of any Libyan or even the police if they abuse the law, which must be applied equally to everyone. The source said that the Secretariat of Justice and the police in Tubruq are conducting joint patrols with complete coordination with the Egyptian police to prevent any smuggling and to hunt down outlaws.

AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that the workers problem continues due to the lack of agreement between the Egyptian and Libyan sides regarding the circulation of the Libyan dinar in Egyptian banks and the Egyptian pound in Libyan banks. [passage omitted]

Libyan youths have denounced Jallud's statements before the Arab pharmacists' conference, in which he assailed Egypt and its leadership. The youths described Jallud's statements as irresponsible and said they will not affect relations between the two peoples.

The Libyans have stressed that AL-JUMHURIYAH's Saturday [2 November] editions were sold out immediately upon arrival in Libya. It should be recalled that AL-JUMHURIYAH had published an article by Samir Rajab, chairman of the newspaper's board of directors, about Jallud's statements.

Ambassador Notes 'Normal' Relations

NC1211160291 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met Ambassador Mustafa al-Shadhili, Egypt's ambassador to Libya, who confirmed that since their restoration, Egyptian-Libyan relations have been proceeding on a normal course. The ambassador said that despite some excesses [tajawuzat] which occurred on the border, relations are on the right track and coordination continues among the concerned agencies.

Mauritania

Interior Ministry Licenses New Political Party

LD1111085491 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 0000 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] The Ministry of Interior, Posts, and Communications yesterday granted licence No. 9 to a new political party called the Union for the Planning of Construction [al-Ittihad min 'Ajli al-Takhtit li'l-Bina']. The new party is led by an executive committee which consists of a secretary general, an assistant secretary general, and nine specialized secretariats.

Presidential Elections Set for 24 Jan, 27 Feb

LD1111145991 Rabat MAP in English 1341 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Nouakchott, Nov. 11 (MAP)—The presidentials' [elections] two rounds in Mauritania will be held respectively next January 24 and February 27, sources close to the opposition "Union For Democratic Forces" have announced. Parliamentary elections will be organized next March 6 and 13 and senators' elections on April 3 and 10, the same sources said, adding that the parties listed were informed Saturday on these decisions by the Home Ministry.

The coordination body of the Mauritanian opposition parties (gathering six parties) convened Sunday to consider the dates and agree on the joint stance to be adopted. [passage omitted]

Opposition Parties Reject Schedule

AB1211200091 Paris AFP in French 1923 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 11 Nov [date as received] (AFP)—The opposition parties today rejected the timetable for the presidential, parliamentary, and senatorial elections announced last night by the Mauritanian authorities, an official of the opposition's coordinating committee told AFP today.

Seven of the eight approved political parties at the time of the announcement of this timetable (the ninth Mauritanian political party was only approved yesterday) stated their rejection following a joint meeting. They believe that the short deadlines would not enable the recently legalized parties to gain sufficient support throughout the country. The latest party, the Social and Democrat Republican Party [as received], is openly favorable to the present government.

Presidential Decree Names New Interior Minister

JN1311114791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—It was announced here today that Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan has been appointed minister of interior. A presidential decree was issued appointing him to this post. Al-Hasan was the governor of the Salah-al-Din Governorate.

Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan succeeds 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, who was appointed minister of defense and acting minister of interior.

New Defense Minister 'Well-Known Criminal'

NC0911194891 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1614 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Today's talk: The Iraqi President and the Last Bet]

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dismissed his son-in-law Defense Minister Husayn Kamil and appointed his cousin 'Ali Hasan al-Majid to this sensitive post. What is the meaning of this change that has recently become normal for the regime in light of the crises that have been besetting it? In reporting the change, the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY did not explain what prompted the Iraqi president to adopt this decision and whether Husayn Kamil will assume another party or government post or whether his fate, too, has become unknown.

Husayn Kamil was appointed defense minister after the recent Gulf war and the abolition of the Military Industrialization Ministry. Husayn Kamil did not secure this post for his ingenuity in the military field and in war sciences and his proficiency in the mother of defeats, but as a result of changes made in the Iraqi leadership on the basis of absolute loyalty to the Iraqi president and family ties with the ruling family.

What is strange in the present era is that last month the Iraqi president conferred on his now former defense minister 10 ribbons for courage, the sword of the Mother of Battles, and al-Rafidayn medal—all at once—for his distinguished efforts and (?achievements). This minister also secured a great many votes during the recent 10th Ba'th Party regional conference.

As for Ali Hasan al-Majid, the new defense minister, who we do not believe will remain in the post any longer than his predecessor, he has many qualities and talents qualifying him to assume the post of defense minister very efficiently. This is in addition to his family relationship and obvious loyalty to the Iraqi president. This failed corporal is the hero of the chemical massacres in Kurdistan, the genocide war against the Kurdish people, and the operations of [word indistinct] and destruction that afflicted Kurdistan. He was also the governor of Kuwait and established security and peace in Iraq's 19th governorate. He is the hero of the massacres in south Iraq during the uprising of the masses. Now he is the person most qualified to represent the aggressive and chauvinistic line of the Iraqi Ba'th Party.

Whatever the analysis of this change, it cannot be viewed casually even if it is part of the many liquidations and changes taking place within the Ba'th Party. Many persons have stepped down and disappeared from the Iraqi political scene. Until recent months they were regarded as active pillars of the ruling regime. The dismissal of Husayn Kamil, son-in-law of the Iraqi president, from the post of defense minister raises new alarm in the Iraqi leadership, not because of the importance and ingenuity of the Iraqi president's son-in-law but for the simple reason that the ruling family has begun to lose its apparent tenacity because of the strong caution and suspicion the Iraqi president feels toward those closest to him.

Iraq is now experiencing a number of acute crises and problems for which the Iraqi leadership, with its present mentality, cannot find remedial or even temporary solutions. The Iraqi president's choice of 'Ali Hasan al-Majid to assume this post portends many dangers to Iraq and the Iraqi people. Choosing a well-known criminal to assume the post of defense minister in addition to the post of interior minister means, first, that the Iraqi leadership is insisting on its aggressive and chauvinistic line against the Kurdish and Iraqi people and even against neighboring states, as well as against the coalition forces and the international and humanitarian organizations in Iraq. Second, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid's appointment as defense minister also means that operations of physical liquidations and dismissals will begin anew against the former government, party, and military command officials. It also means that the campaigns of murder and violence will increase. Third—and this is something the Iraqi president and his new defense minister are seriously taking into account—is which one of them will be able to dig the hole for the other in the near future in light of the ongoing confidence crisis and [word indistinct] within the Ba'th Party and the ruling family—that is if the crises that are besetting Iraq will allow the government to continue to govern the Iraqi masses with steel and fire and maintain the dictatorship in Iraq.

The appointment of 'Ali Hasan al-Majid as defense minister is the Iraqi regime's last losing bet. In our view, whatever 'Ali Hasan al-Majid does, he cannot suddenly become a superman as the Iraq regime hopes. There is no doubt that he has one distinguished quality, namely, persistence in crime and murdering innocent citizens.

Saddam Chairs Joint Command Council-Party Meeting

JN1211175291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1744 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Saddam Tours Factory, Sees Reconstruction Efforts

JN1211165291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said: Principles and national, faithful, and honorable stands notwithstanding, some narrow-minded people ask, "What economic gains, at least, have we achieved?" Would it not have been better, they believe, had we bowed instead of losing in economic terms? These short-sighted people ignore, or pretend to ignore, that our people's wealth lies in their mind and hand, not only in the money we get from the foreigners when they buy our oil.

The president added: Wealth, when it is the wealth of the mind, accumulates with the passage of time, and all subsequent generations will be happy in life. Moreover, opportunities for prosperity will remain open to them, and the gates of hope will remain wide open.

These remarks were made during the president's visit to a factory making construction materials which had been hit by the imperialist and Zionist aggressors. His excellency inspected reconstruction efforts at the factory.

Addressing workers at the factory, his excellency said: You have discovered this axiom by yourselves and as you have worked. As for those who do not work, they cannot discover any of the Mother of Battles' supreme values, just like those who are not engaged in jihad cannot discover nor represent the supreme values of our immortal battle.

During the visit, the president was briefed on the factory's production capabilities and role in providing the required materials for the reconstruction of what has been ruined by the aggressors, and to meet the needs of the local market under the circumstances of the economic blockade imposed upon our country.

The president toured the factory amid the workers' chants, songs, and assertions of the Iraqis' ability to achieve self-sufficiency until the blockade is broken. The president was welcomed and seen off by the director general of the factory.

Kurdish Rebels Dig In South of Irbil

NC1211174091 Paris AFP in English 1702 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, Nov 12 (AFP)—Kurdish fighters dug in Tuesday southeast of Irbil in northern Iraq, as Iraqi regulars were reported to be advancing towards the outskirts of the town, ahead of what could be a major showdown.

Tension gripped Irbil where the Kurdish guerrillas have been told to retreat by the Iraqi army which is positioned in nearby defensive lines, the site of clashes for the past four days.

The guerrillas are dug in some 12 kilometers (seven miles) southeast of Irbil, along lines they have recently reinforced. One of their spokesmen told an AFP correspondent they "will not withdraw further."

"If they (regular Iraqi army troops) continue to advance, it will be a real battle," a guerrilla said.

On Sunday, Iraq denied reports that it was preparing to mount an offensive against the rebels, saying such allegations aimed at undermining Kurdish-Iraqi talks under way since the end of the Gulf war in February.

Iraqi forces crushed a Kurdish uprising shortly after the end of the war and later opened a dialogue with Kurdish leaders on the future of Iraqi Kurdistan.

The two military forces, meanwhile, have been testing each other for several days around Irbil where the guerrillas have taken up positions which were abandoned earlier this month by the Iraqi army.

The army, deployed 40 kilometers (25 miles) southeast of Irbil a month ago, according to a military official of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, advanced to the outskirts of the town early last week, in a bid to retake its positions.

'Tentative Accord' With Kurds on Lifting Blockade

NC1311093091 Paris AFP in English 0912 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 13 (AFP)—Kurdish and Iraqi negotiators have reached a tentative accord aimed at lifting a partial blockade imposed by Iraq on areas of Kurdistan, a source close to the talks reported Wednesday.

He said the agreement, the details of which were not disclosed, must now be submitted to Kurdish opposition parties for approval.

Five Kurdish leaders left Baghdad Tuesday for Kurdistan, in northern Iraq, after talks here that began late last week. They are now to confer with Mas'ud Barzani, head of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, and Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

The negotiating team, led by Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman of the Popular Democratic Party of Kurdistan, was inaccessible to journalists during its stay here and Iraqi press reports carried no substantial coverage of the talks.

The delegation came to Baghdad last Thursday after the Iraqi Army had begun to stop trucks carrying medicine, food and fuel to the cities of al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil, held by Kurdish guerrillas—known as peshmergas.

But traffic was reported to have been flowing normally between Zakho and Dahuk, located further west, and the rest of Iraq. These two cities, which are also in the hands of the Kurdish opposition, control road links with Turkey that are indispensable to the Iraqi economy.

The Iraqi Army, according to a reliable source here, controls roads between the oil center of Karkuk on the one hand and Irbil and Al-Sulaymaniyah further north but had moved in no offensive reinforcements by the beginning of the week.

Iraq has denied foreign press reports that it is about to mount a new campaign against Kurdish guerrillas in the north.

The army last March crushed a Kurdish rebellion, which erupted in the aftermath of the Gulf war, and in May Iraqi and Kurdish leaders started talks on a new agreement covering autonomy for Kurdistan.

But the negotiations have yet to produce a formal accord.

Kurdish Leader Talabani on Talks With Baghdad

NC1111065091 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Nov 91 p 5

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and joint leader of the Kurdistan Front, by 'Atif al-Ghamri in Paris—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Ghamri] What led to the failure of your talks with Saddam Husayn in Baghdad? Saddam is said to have announced that he was ready to give the Kurds a blank check on all their demands except secession.

[Talabani] Saddam's list of demand included too many things. It was a price that we had to agree to pay first. Among his demands was that the Kurdistan Front join the Iraqi dictatorship, be part of it, and defend it. The dictatorship in Baghdad wanted to turn the front into a strike force hostile to all Iraqi opposition parties and organizations and all countries neighboring Iraq, including the Arab countries. He wanted us to be hostile to Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and all those that Saddam calls the reactionary regimes involved in the colonialist conspiracy. He believes that this includes the entire Arab world. We could not accept those demands. There are several other reasons for the faltering negotiations. Saddam rejected democratic reforms, insisted on maintaining a one-party system and a one-man show, and denied the front its right to establish relations with Kurdish and Arab parties outside Iraq and with international parties and organizations. Baghdad also insisted on keeping all Iraqi armed forces, including the peshmerga, under Ba'th Party control, and it refused to place Kurdish territory under autonomy rule, insisting on keeping half of the Iraqi Kurdish region outside the autonomy region. The dispute is not just over Karkuk. It includes Mandali, Khanaqin, Kifri, (Kuz Daquq), (Kubri Shaykhan), Zummar, and 'Ayn Zalah. Another reason for the failure is the regime's demand that the front be hostile to all regimes to which Baghdad is hostile.

[Al-Ghamri] What is the current relationship between the government and the Kurds?

[Talabani] We have a tenuous relationship. Messages and cables are exchanged on the latest Iraqi proposals and both parties are prepared for changes and surprises.

[Al-Ghamri] Have you been accused of trying to secede from the Iraqi motherland?

[Talabani] The Kurdish movement has reiterated in its statements, programs, and documents that it adheres to Iraqi national unity, the struggle to achieve democracy and human rights in Iraq, and the guarantee of Kurdish rights within a democratic and independent Iraq. The Kurdish movement is realistic and realizes that changing the maps of the five countries in which Kurds live—Turkey, the Soviet Union, Iran, Syria, and Iraq—is a complicated, almost impossible task. We are not suggesting things that cannot be done. We view the secession charge as a fabrication by the Iraqi dictatorship to justify its aggressive war in which chemical weapons and a scorched earth policy were used against the Kurds. The presence of Kurds in the Iraqi opposition is the best proof that the charges of secessionism are invalid. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ghamri] For the first time Turkish President Turgut Ozal admitted that the Kurdish problem in Turkey cannot be resolved by force, but by democracy and dialogue.

[Talabani] In his statement, Ozal called for examining and discussing all proposals to solve the Kurdish problem in Turkey, including the establishment of Turkish-Kurdish confederal links. Compared to Turkey's position last year, which denied the existence of a Kurdish people or a Kurdish minority in Turkey, this is a huge transformation, particularly since he recognizes that it is a problem that cannot be solved by war. I believe that the Kurdish leadership in Turkey must immediately accept these proposals and enter into negotiations toward a political solution. Dialogue is the language of the age, and we bleieve that the new world order is one that resolves disputes with dialogue. If these statements are translated into reality, the course of Middle East developments will be altered. If Turkey gives the Kurdish people their democratic rights, Kurds from the entire region will be attracted, particularly since Turkey is democratic, is trying to join the EC, and has old relations with the Kurds, who are Sunni. By giving Kurds democratic rights, Turkey will gain the sympathy of Kurds outside Turkey as well and, consequently, it will be the protector of the Kurds.

[Al-Ghamri] I believe that the new Turkish role is more comprehensive than the Kurdish issue. Turkey plans to play a political and economic role in the Middle East, one that is in accordance with the new world order and the accompanying U.S. role.

[Talabani] Ozal's policy is intelligent. After the loss of NATO's military role, Turkey wants to play a secular and democratic role in the face of the Shiite Islamic tide from Iran. In addition to the political side of Turkey's role, there is an economic side as well that relies on the Southeastern Anatolian Project (Gap). This is a giant economic project that includes 21 dams, seven electricity plants, and 11 lakes that will irrigate 60 million feddans. Turkey is establishing these projects in the Kurdish region of Turkey from which the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers spring, controlling water supplies to Syria and Iraq. Turkey wants to transform the Kurdish region into an area of electric and agricultural production, turning Turkey into a rich agricultural state needed in Middle East markets. Turkey's political and economic importance will replace its military importance. We know that the Turkish president is an intelligent economist and a liberal who believes in the European market-economy. He is also a realist who wants to solve problems in a modern way. [passage omitted]

Talabani Discusses Kurdish-Opposition Ties

NC1011205091 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK]. The Arabic section of the Voice of the People of Kurdistan welcomes you on your return to Kurdistan after a long trip abroad. We thank you for agreeing to meet with us. Our first question: Have there been new developments regarding relations between the Kurdish movement and the Iraqi opposition?

[Talabani] I thank you for giving me the chance to answer your questions. Our brave Iraqi people have been suffering the brutality of dictatorship, its sins, and the many disasters it has caused the Iraqi people—Arabs, Kurds, and others—for several years. To answer your question, I believe the most important development on the level of the Kurdish Liberation Movement's relations with the Iraqi opposition is the visit a delegation from the Joint Action Committee paid to Kurdistan and the meetings it held with the political secretariat or the political leadership of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front. These meetings resulted in a better understanding between the two sides and in the resumption and consolidation of the ties of struggle between the Kurdistan Front—which is a main member of the joint action committee—and the other members of the joint action committee of the Iraqi Opposition Forces.

The second event is the resumption of meetings between us and the Iraqi opposition forces that are not members of the joint action committee. There are Iraqi opposition factions that have not yet joined the joint action committee. These factions are carrying out their opposition activity outside the homeland. Meetings were held between us and representatives of the Free Iraqi Council, the Iraqi National Charter, and the Constitutional Reform Movement in Iraq. We exchanged letters with the Democratic Grouping for the Salvation of Iraq and well-known Iraqi forces and personalities, who have been struggling against dictatorship. I mention in particular former Iraqi Prime Minister Lieutenant Colonel 'Arif 'Abd-al-Razzaq, a well-known national figure in Iraq. Consequently, there are new Iraqi opposition activists with whom the Kurdish Liberation movement established relations.

The third event is our serious participation in the current attempts to convene a conference for the Iraqi opposition forces to create a political alternative to the dictatorial regime oppressing our people and to establish cooperation between the Kurds, Arabs, Turkomans, Assyrians, and all opposition forces to rescue Iraq from the vicissitudes and catastrophes the dictatorship has brought upon our Iraqi people.

These are the most important developments on the level of the Kurdish movement's relations with other Iraqi opposition forces.

[Correspondent] The second question is actually a question being asked by many people: [Words indistinct] the dialogue with the authority stumbled, and what do you expect in this regard?

[Talabani] The dialogue with the authority has not achieved success because of the Iraqi dictatorship's intransigence and its refusal to make democratic reforms and changes in the dictatorial structure of the regime. The ruling regime has not changed at all and has not learned anything from the disasters the dictatorship brought on Iraq, whether as a result of the humiliating and destructive [words indistinct], or the changing and hostile relations with neighbors, the Arab states, and the world; or the criminal war; the annihilation war; the chemical war against the Kurdish people. The regime is still the same; it has not changed its mentality, methods, slogans, and ways of dealing with the people. The regime rejects any democratic measure. Instead of democracy, it calls for silencing anyone calling for democracy. Therefore, we are still moving in the whirlpool of dictatorship that has brought catastrophes and disasters to Iraq. This is a basic obstacle in the way of genuine understanding between the Kurdish liberation movement and the Iraqi Government.

The second point at which the dialogue stumbled pertains to the autonomous area. The dictatorship insists on parceling away more than half of the area of Kurdistan or what it calls the autonomous Kurdistan region. The Iraqi dictatorship also insists on continuing to arabize Karkuk. While the dictatorship is displacing hundreds of thousands of the sons and daughters from the Karkuk area, it is bringing Arab families to live there. Your radio has broadcast a document about settling 2,726 new families in Karkuk. This is at a time when the government is objecting to the return of Kurdish and Turkoman families to their houses in the Karkuk area, even now as we approach winter. This indicates that the government is still pursuing a policy of forceful Arabization and a policy of displacing the original Kurdish and Turkoman residents from the Karkuk area. This also indicates that the government is still pursuing the policy of racial discrimination, violating not only existing Iraqi laws and the principles and basis on which the Iraqi state and Iraqi national unity were established, but also flagrantly violating human rights and the international human rights convention and the Iraqi Government's pledges in the memorandum of understanding with Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan.

Another reason for the suspension of the talks concerns what the dictatorship calls the Kurdistan Front's commitments. The Iraqi Government wants the Kurdistan Front to approve a personality cult, the dictatorship of one party, and the so-called march of struggle of the 17 and 30 July revolutions. It also wants the Kurdistan Front to be against all Iraqi opposition forces, all neighboring states, and the whole world for obviously feeble excuses. The Iraqi Government asked the Kurdistan Front to sever its diplomatic and political ties with Kurdistan parties, with Arab, European, and world parties, and with all humanitarian and charitable organizations [words indistinct]. This means that the dictatorship wants to put the Kurdish people in a cage and close the door. This is so that in the future, and at the appropriate time, it can resume the war of extermination against the Kurdish quietly and without any international uproar.

These are the main obstacles preventing a solution with the Iraqi Government. There are other obstacles known to all.

[Correspondent] Concerning the new situation the dictatorial regime has imposed in Kurdistan—we mean the state of economic and administrative siege—can we use legal means to confront this siege and this state?

[Talabani] The state to which you are referring is in fact a declaration of economic war on the people of Iraqi Kurdistan. It is a desperate attempt by the dictatorial Iraqi regime to impose its conditions on the Iraqi Kurdistan Front. The Iraqi Government is pursuing a policy of starvation in Kurdistan to force the Kurdish people to acquiesce and surrender. It is a lethal policy the Kurdish people reject. The majority of employees and workers have rejected the government's order to leave the area for Baghdad and Mosul. They insisted on remaining with their people, preferring the honor of bravery and steadfastness to government salaries.

Regarding the existence of an international law to save our people from this economic and starvation war, we can refer to UN Security Council Resolution 706 calling for the need to allocate funds collected from Iraqi oil sales to provide the necessary food and medicine for the Iraqi people—Arabs, Kurds, Turkomans, Assyrians, and others. There are also Iraq's international obligations toward the Kurdish people. When Iraqi Kurdistan was annexed to the newly formed Iraqi state in 1924, the Iraqi Government and Britain pledged to respect the Kurdish people's rights to live in dignity on their land. The Iraqi Government is now flagrantly violating these obligations, thus making itself unqualified to be a popular government for Iraq or the Iraqi Kurdistan people.

We believe we could also use the international declaration on human rights, thus using all these international laws, considerations, and commitments to force the Iraqi regime to end the abnormal state of oppression and treachery at once.

[Correspondent] My last question pertains to an event that took place last Wednesday when the Iraqi president dismissed his brother-in-law and appointed his cousin defense minister. What is your explanation of this measure, which seems to be quite strange?

[Talabani] In fact, the ruling group is suffering from a grave internal crisis and from economic, political, social, military, and other such crises. The dictatorship has dismissed many of the well-known leaders during the latest (?congress) of the ruling party. Examples of these people are Sa'dun Hammadi, Sa'dun Shakir, Samir al-Shakili, and Hasan 'Ali; even [words indistinct] the leader of an army corps during the aggressive war against Iran has been dismissed.

Dismissing the current defense minister, whom the regime worked very hard to place in this sensitive position for the past several years, who was transformed from a petty officer without any military experience, who showed no distinction in either theoretical or practical fields of military operations, and who was appointed merely as a result of his relationship and kinship to the Iraqi president, is a very odd change as you have said, just as his appointment was. Appointing such an unqualified person, both in terms of his military education and experience, was a humiliation for the Iraqi Army. It was a degradation of its potential and groups. At the same time, it was humiliating for the ranking leaders and Iraqi officials who were forced to salute a person who was a stranger to them and inferior in rank, someone without any military experience or known rank. It is well known that whoever was appointed staff lieutenant general and defense minister was not qualified either militarily or politically to occupy this sensitive position in the Iraqi Army, especially since Iraq is confronting the whole world.

Just imagine that a person is promoted from the job of a policeman to defense minister without going through the day-to-day military experience or educational training. He is appointed leader of an army that alleges it will fight a global war. As you know, Iraq claims it is now confronting the world, (?and it is facing the whole world). So how can an army subjected to foreign dangers and the danger of confronting the armies of the world be led by someone who is unqualified? Does this not show disdain for the potential, leadership, or traditions of the Iraqi Army? In fact, it is even an insult. It also slights the lives of hundreds of soldiers and officers who are placed under the leadership of this man who is neither competent nor qualified to assume such a central position.

In fact, the change is evidence of a crisis in the regime. It is evident that the regime is shaky, evident that the crisis is big enough to have reached the core of the house.

Additionally, appointing 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, who is the uncle of the dismissed minister to the post previously held by his nephew, is further proof that the Iraqi Government disdains the Iraqi Army and its competent officers and men. This government did not find among the hundreds of officers and commanders who were decorated frequently for their heroism, courage, and ingenuity, a single one fit to assume the post of defense minister. They brought in a semi-literate person who knows nothing about military affairs except killing, bloodshed, the use of chemical weapons, and conducting a war of extermination. Is this why he was appointed defense minister? Recorded extracts of 'Ali Hasan al-Majid's speeches to army and political cadres, which you broadcast on your radio, prove that he is a man who profoundly hates the Kurdish people. He bears our people a grudge, wants to cut off every tongue that speak Kurdish, wishes to exterminate the Kurdish people as they actually massacred the Kurds in Halabjah and in the recent battles against Kurdish exiles. How should we view the timing of this appointment? We must view it with extreme concern and take precautions against this serious development. It is an ominous sign in view of the fact that this person, who is well-known for his attitudes and war of extermination against Kurds, might now make preparations and send the Iraqi Army to wage a new war of extermination against the Kurdish people.

Hence, we must know that 'Ali Hasan al-Majid's appointment as defense minister, despite his lack of qualifications for this post [passage indistinct].

[Correspondent] Imam Jalal, do you wish to say anything more to the listeners of the Voice of the People of Kurdistan and the Iraqi people in general?

[Talabani] I seize this opportunity to convey my sincere greetings to our proud Iraqi people and my heartfelt wishes that they will be delivered from their hardship, impoverishment, destruction, and starvation. I hope that they will be saved from pain and tragedy. I hope that the Iraqis will soon, God willing, be saved from injustice, dictatorship, and the catastrophes and tragedies that this dictatorship has brought upon our people. Our Iraqi people are now suffering hunger and poverty, they lack life's basic necessities, and bear the burden of exorbitant prices and scarcity of basic commodities. Although our Iraqi people live on a fertile well-irrigated land and possess petroleum and other precious minerals, they are one of the world's poorest nations. They face starvation and death. Iraqi newspapers admitted that thousands of children and invalids die every month for lack of medicines and treatment. All this is happening as a result of the dictatorship's insistence on pursuing a policy that has brought only catastrophe to our Iraqi people. Those who care about Iraq's welfare, as they claim, should know that matters should be placed in the Iraqi people's hands. The Iraqi people should be given the right to have their say and vote, in free and honest elections, to choose a national assembly that will draw up a permanent and democratic constitution for the Iraqi people. Government should be restored to its rightful owners—the Iraqi people—so that they can get rid of hunger, poverty, and disease and so that they can again be a proud and generous people. They must not be subjected daily to international insults, have their independence and sovereignty reduced daily, and have to accept all the flagrant intervention in the country's internal affairs. All this is happening because the regime wants to maintain its own power.

It is the duty of the Iraqi people to work to save and liberate themselves from dictatorship and injustice. I would like to affirm to our brothers, the Iraqi Arabs, that the Kurdish Liberation Movement is not hostile to Iraqi national unity. It is not a secessionist or rebel movement as described by the government propaganda machine. It is a just liberation movement struggling to establish a democratic and parliamentary system in Iraq and then to achieve Kurdish national rights within a unified, democratic, and independent Iraq. The dictatorship has undermined Iraqi national unity and Arab-Kurdish brotherhood by launching a war of extermination against Kurds. The dictatorship is the main source of danger for Iraq, not the Kurdish movement or the movement of our oppressed people in southern Iraq.

I would like to stress to our brothers in the Iraqi Army—soldiers and officers—that the Kurdish liberation movement does not want to fight. It does not want to resume fighting. It does not want renewed fratricide between Kurds and Arabs. It does not want the Iraqi Army to be involved in unjust battles against the Kurdish people, as happened in the past. We harbor only amity and brotherhood for our brother Iraqi soldiers and officers, whom we treated well when they were our guests—and I do not say prisoners. We respected them and allowed them to visit their homes and relatives.

On this occasion I strongly and vehemently condemn the crime committed in al-Sulaymaniyah against a group of brother soldiers. The Kurdistan Front is serious in its investigations to identify and punish the criminals who committed this crime, which is basically directed against the Kurdish people and against the fraternal relationship between the Iraqi Army and the Kurdish Liberation Movement. As is known, recently the brothers in the Iraqi Army refused to fight their Kurdish brothers. This rejection is not due to the cowardice or collapse of the Iraqi Army. Iraqi soldiers and officers are known for their bravery and fortitude. However, in refusing to fight their Kurdish brothers, Iraqi soldiers and officers are expressing a great awareness and real understanding of the situation. They know that the dictatorship wants them to slaughter their brothers in history, religion, homeland, and destiny. This is a genuine and brave stand. Iraqi history will record that they refused to be tools in the hand of the dictatorship to slaughter their brother Kurds. [words indistinct] I greet all soldiers and officers who have refused to fight their brother Kurds, thus exhibiting unique bravery in the history of Iraq. I hope that 1992 will be a year of democracy, peace, and prosperity for the Iraqi people.

Foreign Ministry Source Says No Iranian POW's

JN1311123391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1146 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—Iraq has affirmed that it released all Iranian prisoners of war [POW's], registered and unregistered, and that they have been returned to Iran under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. This came in a statement to INA by an official source at the Foreign Ministry. The official source was referring to what was announced by an Iranian source at the United Nations on 11 November 1991 on Iran's readiness to release all Iraqi POW's held in Iran provided that Iraq reciprocates and releases the Iranian POW's. The source was also referring to Iranian UN Envoy Kamal Kharrazi's meeting with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for this purpose.

The Iraqi source said: Out of its good intentions, Iraq implemented all its commitments on the POW's as stipulated by Security Council Resolution 598 as well as by Article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention for 1949. Iraq released all the Iranian POW's, registered and unregistered. They were returned to Iran under the ICRC supervision. Not one Iranian POW remains in Iraq, and the Iranian side was informed of this through diplomatic channels.

The official source added: The Iranian side, as is its custom, did not abide by implementing Security Council Resolution 598 or Article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention for 1949 with regard to the POW's. Thousands of Iraqi POW's are still held in Iran.

He said Iraq demands the return of all Iraqi prisoners as soon as possible in order to put an end to their suffering, and that of their families.

The source added: On the other hand, Iran does not allow the Red Cross representatives to visit thousands of Iraqi prisoners or to receive letters from them for their families, in violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention.

He added: The return of all Iraqi prisoners, whose numbers run into the tens of thousands, is not subject to bargaining or blackmail. The Iranian authorities should have returned them, and should not have kept them all this time without any justification.

The source said the Iraqi authorities are prepared to hold a meeting of the joint technical committee to investigate the fate of the persons missing from both countries. The committee, he said, is comprised of representatives from Iraq and Iran and is supervised by the ICRC.

Concluding his statement, the source urged Iran to respond positively to this proposal in the interest of all parties.

Over 200 Prisoners Executed; Conditions Worsen

NC0911183691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] The regime of dictator Saddam Husayn continues to execute members of the political opposition, who have been imprisoned for years. This has been disclosed by reliable sources in Baghdad. The sources said that the Saddamist authorities recently executed three groups of prisoners who were brought from prisons in Mosul, (Najawat al-Salman), Abu Ghurayb, and other areas. Over 200 prisoners have been executed so far.

It is worth noting that the conditions in the tyrant's regime have seriously deteriorated. The defeated tyrant has ordered a reduction in the quantity of food provided to prisoners, particularly political ones. Inmates of some secret prisons are said to have starved to death.

Two Pilots Reportedly Executed by Firing Squad

NC1011182191 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1635 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] The government has executed two pilots by firing squad in the Laylal district in the Karkuk governorate.

Armed Kuwaiti Force Attacks Sudanese in Safwan

JN1011101391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper has said that an armed Kuwaiti force accompanied by vehicles bearing Kuwaiti military license plates and equipped with machine guns crossed the Iraqi borders on 1 November in the Safwan area and opened fire on Sudanese farmers, kidnapping eight of them.

Two Sudanese nationals told the AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondent in al-Basrah Governorate that they, along with eight of their companions, were exposed to an armed attack at Safwan farms on 1 November by an armed force affiliated with the regime imposed on Kuwait, and were kidnapped as they were collecting wood from farms located inside Iraqi territory. The Sudanese national Muhammad Hamid Muhammad who, along with his companion Badr-al-Din Hasan, managed to flee and not fall captive to the Kuwaiti gangs, said that a number of those kidnapped were injured because they were exposed to a hail of bullets from the armed men. Traces of heavy bleeding were seen on the ground, as well as a crater resulting from a bomb explosion.

Minister Hammadi Assails UAE President's Remarks

JN1111153491 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1505 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has commented on the impudent remarks made recently by [United Arab Emirates President—UAE] Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan when he received a Kuwaiti delegation, as broadcast by Abu Dhabi radio. The minister said: The Arab nation has known the nature of this man and his kind of disreputable agents, who were raised by British colonialists, and who opened the Arab land and wealth for plunder by the colonialist states in return for cheap personal pleasures. The Arab nation deals contemptibly and disgustingly with Zayid and others like him, and with all the statements and pronouncements their kind make.

The culture and information minister said Iraq feels proud that it has maintained Arab dignity and an independent Arab will. He added: Leader Saddam Husayn is a symbol of honor, might, pride, and independent Arab will. Because his positions and principles highlight the degradation and agentry of Zayid, and similar agents, they try to harm the symbolic leader.

Kuwait-U.S. Military Treaty Viewed

JN1011091091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has stressed that the suspicious military treaties the rulers imposed on Kuwait are concluding are a continuation of the U.S. aggression and conspiracy against Iraq, and a direct threat to its security, independence, and sovereignty.

In its editorial today, the paper says: After the brutal 30-state aggression against Iraq and its people, the rulers imposed on Kuwait play their treacherous role against the Arab nation in an open and exposed manner. Consequently, they revealed the truth about the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist alliance's desperate efforts to reinstate the al-Sabah family in power in order to continue their service of the alliance's plan in the region.

The paper adds: Although the relationship of treason and agentry between those rulers and the U.S.-Western colonialist countries was clear and known, today they persist in pan-Arab treason by concluding military treaties that aim at making Kuwait a protege of the United States and some Western countries.

The paper stresses that the treason of the rulers imposed on Kuwait will turn Kuwait into a military base for conspiring against the Arab nation—particularly the Palestine question and the liberation of its soil from the filth of the Zionist occupation.

The paper stresses that pan-Arab security is not achieved through suspicious military treaties with the forces traditionally hostile to our nation—foremost being the United States—nor is it achieved by the placement of an Arab country under the umbrella of the Western military bases. Rather, pan-Arab security, which attains essential national security for each Arab country, is the security achieved by the Arabs themselves, whose pillars and principles they agree on, and which protects from any foreign intervention under any form or cover.

The paper concludes: These agreements are no more than the illegitimate and warped offspring of the brutal 30-state alliance, and part of the U.S. conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation. The paper stresses that the fate of this conspiracy will be the same as that of its predecessors, and that the masses of our nation will be responsible for burying it.

Daily Assails U.S. New Order, 'Crimes'

JN1011150091 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 10 INA—AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, confirmed that the crimes committed by U.S. President George Bush against the people of Iraq were enough to prove that the new world order was nothing but an image of the law of the jungle and neo-colonialism.

In an article published today, the daily said that Bush's claims about freedom, democracy and human rights were of no importance, but the important thing was the political practices and practical policy Bush actually pursued and the way he behaved towards international legitimacy and law.

The daily made it clear that the U.S. President and his partners and servants were moving ahead with their aggression against Iraq, waging an unprecedented economic and and psychological war against its people.

It stressed that the new world order led by Bush was a system trying to return the world to the ages of colonialism, during which peoples' rights used to be violated and their riches plundered.

Protest to UN on U-2 Airspace Violations

JN1211084991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Iraq has protested to the United Nations the violations of Iraqi airspace by the U.S. U-2 spy plane on the pretext of conducting an aerial survey for the UN Special Commission.

In a message handed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York today, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn informed the UN chief that the U.S. U-2 spy plane, which carries the mark UECO-1, entered Iraqi airspace from Saudi airspace on Thursday, 7 November 1991; flew over Iraqi cities, villages, and hamlets for almost four hours; and then left Iraqi airspace in the direction of Saudi Arabia.

The foreign minister indicated that this violation of Iraqi airspace, the 13th of its kind within less than three months, lends credence to our legitimate queries regarding the motives behind these planes' intensive flights over our territory, and also about the benefits gained by the commission from these repeated violations. The minister further wondered: Has the Special Commission managed to locate additional sites covered by Resolution 687 through the use of these overflights?

Ahmad Husayn said that honest answers to these questions would reconfirm that this plane's task was outside the jurisdiction of the Special Commission, as spelled out in Resolution 687. It was an operation for spying and harassment carried out by some world parties that harbor hostile intentions against Iraq, using the cover provided by the Special Commission and the United Nations, in contravention of the principles and objectives of the United Nations, whose prime task is to safeguard the member states' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The foreign minister added: While denouncing and strongly condemning this new violation of our airspace, we call on the United Nations and the Special Commission to reconsider allowing the U.S. spy plane to violate Iraqi airspace under the cover of the United Nations.

Regrets Over Arab, World 'Apathy' Toward Blockade

JN0911090691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH said that the effects of the economic blockade on Iraq have seriously worsened. The economic blockade is now threatening the lives of thousands of people as a result of malnutrition, a lack of health care, and a serious shortage of medicine and vital necessities.

AL-QADISIYAH, the mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, says in its editorial today that focusing on the above fact is not begging, but a reminder that ignoring this fact is tantamount to making it worse.

The paper expresses regret at the silence and apathy prevailing in the Arab and international arenas toward the suffering of the Iraqis. It adds that individual calls by humanitarian organizations and political and intellectual figures have so far produced only a limited effect on the parties participating in the blockade.

Referring to suggestions by some international bodies that addressing Iraq's situation and the issue of the blockade require examination and verification, AL-QADISIYAH says that there is no time for a so-called field inspection of the Iraqi people's situation or discussing ways to check the deterioration of their health and food situation. What is needed is urgent and effective action so that Iraqis can get their humanitarian needs of food, medicine, and other requirements.

The paper stresses that this will not be achieved except by immediately unfreezing Iraqi funds abroad. The Security Council should also stop playing the blockade game, depending on U.S. excuses and justifications.

The paper holds the United Nations primarily responsible for addressing the humanitarian pressures and problems being suffered by the Iraqis. West European nations are also responsible for this task, the paper adds, and accuses these countries of embracing exposed double standards toward the crime of the blockade.

Knesset Resolution on Golan Heights Passed

TA1211140991

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 12 November publishes a report on the resolution concerning the Golan Heights passed by the Knesset on 11 November, dwelling in particular on the bitter argument it triggered among Knesset members of various parties. In a page 1 report by Knesset correspondent Yona Kohen, HATZOFE carries what is presented as the resolution adopted at the end of a lengthly debate by the Knesset plenum on the issue of "The Future of the Golan Heights." The resolution reads:

"The Knesset reiterates that the Golan Heights, being an inseparable part of the State of Israel, constitutes an important pillar in the state's security, and its rule over it will not be subject to negotiation.

"The Knesset calls on the government to guarantee the resources needed for its economic development and increasing settlements there.

"The Knesset calls on the Finance Committee to guarantee the budget allocations necessary to this end."

'Concern' Over 'Harsh' U.S. Reaction

TA1311124291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
13 Nov 91 p A1

[Report by Gay Bekhor and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Jerusalem political circles yesterday expressed concern with the harsh reactions in the United States to the Knesset resolution on the Golan Heights. Reports reaching here from the United States point out the sharp responses to the resolution calling for strengthening the Golan settlements and for opposition to withdrawal from the heights within the framework of a settlement with Syria.

Political circles said that this strengthens Syria's claim that Israel does not plan to reach a reasonable settlement with it. The Knesset move might erode the political and public relations achievements Israel gained by participating in the Madrid peace conference and have a negative impact on the chances of achieving wide-ranging support among U.S. public opinion and in Congress for the immigrant loan guarantees.

The U.S. reports stressed the broad Knesset support for the Golan resolution and especially the fact that the Labor Party joined the right-wing parties in calling for avoiding a settlement involving territories for peace within the framework of negotiations with Syria. [passage omitted]

Envoy to U.S. Urges New Public Relations Effort

TA1111132591 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
11 Nov 91 p 5

[By Tzvi Gilat]

[Text] The need for a public relations realignment in the aftermath of the Madrid conference was discussed yesterday in a meeting of Israeli consuls general summoned by Israeli Ambassador to Washington Zalman Shoval. The participants said a role reversal may be necessary: Instead of Jerusalem issuing guidelines to its public relations officials in the United States, the latter may have to instruct Jerusalem on the information policy it should adopt. "Israel will have to change its public relations policy in the wake of the conference," Ambassador Shoval said, "in view of the fact that the Palestinians managed to penetrate public opinion, deliver a moderate message, and point to their flexibility on the permanent solution to be effected in the territories at the end of the negotiations." It was further stated in the meeting that Israel should give a concrete explanation of how it intends to progress toward an interim arrangement and should already at this stage stress its position that an independent Palestinian state is not a desirable outcome of the process.

Shamir on Freeing Syrian Jews, Missing Navigator

TA1311120691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1105 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Reacting to the reports that Syrian Jews are hostages in the hands of the Damascus regime, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that Israel is making continuous efforts to achieve the release of the Syrian Jewish community from captivity.

[Begin Shamir recording] Israel is making continuous efforts to free the Jews from the decrees banning them from leaving Syria when they so desire. Of course, most of our activity is in the diplomatic field. I very much hope that we will eventually attain our goal. [end recording]

If we have to wait 120 days in order to receive the loan guarantees from the United States, we shall do so, the prime minister said. The prime minister is due to leave for the United States in approximately 10 days, where he will meet with industrialists, businessmen, and try to interest potential investors in investing in Israel.

[Begin Shamir recording] They invited me, so I am going there. Several meetings were set up at some date around 21 November, with the focus being on recruiting investment in Israel. We, together with a group of Israeli industrialists and businessmen, will meet with potential American investors in order to spur them to invest in Israel. In addition, I will of course meet with Jewish leaders in several major U.S. cities, and there is talk of some kind of invitation to Washington. [end recording]

The prime minister was speaking at Sde Boqer at a memorial service for Ben-Gurion. His remarks were brought by Nisim Qeynan.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 13 November carries a similar report, adding that "Prime

Minister Shamir said that a meeting with President Bush had still not been scheduled for his upcoming visit."

The report notes that Shamir also addressed the contacts surrounding missing navigator Ron Arad and carries a recorded passage of Shamir's remarks in which he says: "We have not forgotten him. There are continuous contacts to secure his release. We have a team of people working together with the UN secretary general and his aides, and unflagging efforts are being made to receive information regarding his whereabouts, the state of his health, and, of course, primarily his release and return home." Shamir adds: "Up to this moment, we have no additional details."]

Shamir Says Arabs Should Be Guided by 'Realism'

TA1311065691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] We will only be able to reach peace if the Arabs enter negotiations guided by a spirit of realism [preceding word in English] and without exaggerated expectations. These remarks were made yesterday by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at an awards ceremony for outstanding authors. Our correspondent 'Idan Miller heard Mr. Shamir:

[Miller] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was the guest of honor at the awards ceremony for outstanding authors held at the Writers House in Tel Aviv. We are in the midst of peace efforts, Shamir said. The festive opening at the Madrid conference less than two weeks ago may have opened a window for the hope of peace. However, everyone in the internal Israeli political scene, regardless of his political viewpoint, is well aware that the road to peace—be it to the sought after peace agreements with our neighbors or the interim arrangements pertaining to the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—will be long and arduous.

Shamir asserted that the Syrian efforts to assume extreme positions and torpedo such arrangements or to pressure other Arab parties to adopt negative attitudes are holding back the negotiations. Israel, however, is also not joining the negotiations with its eyes blindfolded. The matters under discussion are important issues which pertain to the very essence of our existence in our own country, and we do not have a domestic consensus on all of them. There is no people on earth, Shamir added, which faces such a tangible threat to its very existence as do the people of Israel.

[Begin Shamir recording] The Israeli Government will do everything to further the peace process. But at the same time, however, it will do everything to prevent any undermining of our security and to prevent any harm to our rights in our homeland. I can only express the hope that our neighbors, including the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, will enter negotiations with goodwill and that they will be guided by a spirit of realism [preceding word in English]—a spirit that will lead them to attempt to reach understanding on what is attainable—because this is the only way. If this will be the case, we shall also reach peace. [end recording]

De Klerk Holds Press Briefing, Departs 13 Nov

Views Mine Issue, Nuclear Arms

MB1211201791 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1711 GMT 12 Nov 91

[By Pierre Claassen, political correspondent]

[Text] Tel Aviv Nov 12 SAPA—South African State President F W de Klerk on Tuesday described the slaughter at Reef mines since the weekend as a "very sad event".

He was asked by Israeli journalists attending a final media conference at the end of his state visit what he would be able to do to stop the killings. Mr de Klerk replied that no government could give an absolute guarantee that such violence would not occur in a volatile situation.

The matter had been referred for investigation to the standing Commission on Violence and Intimidation under Mr Justice R J Goldstone set up under the National Peace Accord.

"Obviously it is a very sad event which took place and I commiserate with the families of the victims," he said.

"Unfortunately we get incidents like this but I feel it should be analysed.

"It is faction fighting, black-on-black and it gives me no pleasure nor does it exonerate anyone but this is an important fact.

"The question is why?"

He said that a trade union movement had unilaterally and without any connection to employer/employee relations, called a strike which had brought about widespread intimidation.

Sotho mine workers, originating from an independent country, wanted to go to work while union members, led by Xhosas, insisted they do not go to work.

The matter had now been referred to the new standing Committee for Investigation.

Mr de Klerk went on to stress the problems of Israel and South Africa should not be connected because although they shared certain characteristics in terms of multicultural aspects, they were entirely different problems which had to be solved by each of the countries.

South Africa had an exclusively internal problem which once solved would end all its problems in international relations, whereas Israel's was related to the entire Middle Eastern region and was an internationalised problem.

It was incorrect to think that either country should pay a price for the other's failure to solve its own problems, said Mr de Klerk.

He was asked whether the situation of the Jewish community would change for the worse once a majority government came to power.

"The constitution I'm working for will ensure that it won't," he said.

This was done in resisting the takeover of power in a new system to dominate or trample or suppress minorities.

"Then the Jewish and all communities, like the Portuguese, may well become victims.

"We must ensure no government will be able to abuse its power to supress minorities," he said.

Mr de Klerk was also asked about nuclear arms production, to which he referred to the country's recent signing of the Non-Proliferation Treaty which ensured that the entire world knew precisely what was happening at its nuclear installations.

One journalist said there was a fear in the west as to what would become of South Africa's nuclear facilities under a black regime.

Mr de Klerk's first reacted to the term black, which had been used several times during the questioning in a political context, and said he found it strange that the further South Africa moved away from racial terms and apartheid, the more the world outside wanted to keep it alive.

However, he said, his government was not anticipating allowing any "wild" government—of whatever race—to come to power which could act irresponsibly, by setting up sufficient checks and balances in the new constitution.

Among these was the concept that important decisions be made subject to increased majorities in Parliament.

The media conference followed what was primarily a sightseeing programme for the day, which took the presidential party to Christ's birthplace, Nazareth, and the lower Galilee are where Mr de Klerk and his wife Marike planted a cedar tree and protea bush in a memorial forest dedicated to South Africans fallen in the wars since Israeli independence.

Lunch was had on board a luxury pleasure boat which took the party from the famous resort of Tiberias to the Biblical site of Capernaum before they flew back to Tel Aviv for the press conference and a reception for the Israeli business community in Tel Aviv.

President de Klerk and his entourage will be formally greeted by President and Mrs Chaim Herzog before their departure from Ben Gurion airport for a Muscat/Oman stopover flight to Taipei on Wednesday.

Departs for Taiwan

TA1311123891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] South African President F. W. de Klerk has ended his four-day state visit to Israel and left for a visit to Taiwan. Before leaving today he visited an absorption center in Mevasseret Ziyyon. The South African chief rabbi thanked the president for inviting South African Jewish community leaders to join him on his visit to Israel. The president replied that South African Jewry provides a link between South Africa and Israel, and he is very proud of the community.

Officials on Formation of Political Committees

No Opposition If Order Kept

TA1211115391 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Nov 91 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Israel will not oppose the activity of the political committees in the territories as long as they do not endanger security and order in their actions. This was learned by our correspondent from defense establishment sources.

The sources asserted that the same criterion was applied to the peace demonstrations in the territories. Israel intervened only when it had reason to fear that the demonstration might develop into a disturbance, the sources said.

Our correspondent notes that this is an important change in the policy of Israel which has so far seen such activity as "political subversiveness."

Gen. Zohar: Committees 'Forbidden'

TA1211205491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Statements by Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, the head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, before Arab notables in Ramallah on 12 November—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Zohar] For a long time, the Civil Administration has invested efforts in improving the services it gives the local residents, both by establishing improved and roomier installations for the benefit of the residents and also by alleviating things for the residents on a daily basis in order to make contact between residents and the authorities easier and simpler.

A historic peace process between the State of Israel, its neighbors, and the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip began several days ago. This is a long and complex process, which we all hope will culminate in agreements that will bring calm to the Middle East. The Civil Administration will continue to fulfill all its tasks and duties as the sole authority in the area, just as it has until now. We expect the residents to understand that they also must continue to fulfill all their responsibilities to the authorities, as they have done until now, and as is accepted in any orderly society. We all must be patient and tolerant and let the representatives of all the parties negotiate in a calm and tranquil atmosphere, so that they may attain the necessary agreements.

[Unidentified correspondent] What is the reaction of the Civil Administration to the establishment of political committees in the territories?

[Zohar] No way. According to the existing law, which is also the Jordanian law in force here before, political activity is forbidden here. I have read the reports. We do not recognize anything. There is one sole authority here, and it is ours, that of the Civil Administration on a daily basis. We do not recognize those committees.

Knesset Votes To Revoke MK Levi's Immunity

TA1311124691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The Knesset plenum decided by a majority of votes to remove the immunity of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Knesset Member [MK] Ya'ir Levi. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that 48 MK's voted in favor of lifting the immunity, but the large number of opponents, 33 MK's, surprised everyone. Five MK's abstained.

MK Sara Doron, the coalition chairperson, voiced her surprise and disappointment that 38 MK's had expressed a lack of confidence in the attorney general's considerations. MK Charlie Biton justified his vote against revoking Levi's immunity by saying that other private and party-related corruption should be investigated, including that by ministers. MK Mikha'el Bar-Zohar demanded to totally revoke the immunity MK's enjoy regarding criminal charges.

Inner Cabinet Endorses Home Front Command

TA1311103791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The inner cabinet has endorsed the defense establishment's proposal to set up a home front command. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the commander of the home front command will be responsible for all the civilian bodies in charge of civil defense, while the commanders of the various IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commands will be able to concentrate on their sectors during an emergency.

The defense minister and the chief of staff will soon decide on the appointment of a commander for the home front. Deputy Defense Minister 'Ovadiya Eli will supervise the Army on home front affairs. The decision to establish such a command was reached in the wake of conclusions drawn after the Gulf war.

Contingency Plan Devised for Arab Trade Ties

TA1011141791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] A contingency plan for trade and industrial ties between Israel and the Arab countries is currently being drafted in the Industry and Trade Ministry. The plan includes ideas for special customs duties arrangements as well as commercial and industrial cooperation. Our correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that teams have been set up in the Industry and Trade Ministry to study the Arab countries' economies.

Labor Rejects Palestinian Self-Determination

TA1011161991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] By a large majority—43 to 21—the Labor Party's Political Committee rejected the proposal that Palestinian self- determination be recognized. The committee also resolved not to hold negotiations with the PLO.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that Knesset Member 'Uzi Bar'am, one of the chief proponents of self- determination, attacked his party, saying that where the political issue is concerned, it is perceived as unreliable.

University Area Closed for Palestinian Debate

TA1211092991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] A firebomb was hurled in the village of al-'Arrub in the Hebron district at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] lookout. The firebomb ignited, nobody was hurt, and there was no damage. The IDF began a manhunt for the perpetrators.

The IDF closed the area around Bethlehem University and declared it a closed military area. The student leaders invited Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, who is identified with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and is opposed to the peace process, for a campus debate. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the order is aimed at preventing news coverage of the university debate. Only those studying at the university were invited to the debate.

Arab Woman Caught Near Minister Sharon's House

TA1111104391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] A short while ago a 26-year-old Arab woman tried to pull out a knife near the house of Minister Sharon in the Old City of Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that a border policeman cocked his weapon and she fled. She was caught in a nearby shop after a short pursuit and was transferred to the Old City police for interrogation.

Military Sources Deny Lebanese Villages Shelled

TA1211205591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Supply convoys belonging to the Hizballah organization arrived today at the villages north of the security zone in southern Lebanon. The Hizballah, with the support of Iran and Syria, sent representatives to encourage the villagers and to examine their situation following the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA's [South Lebanese Army] artillery barrages.

Our military affairs correspondent Moshe Schlonsky reports that an SLA force operated yesterday in the village of Haddathah, north of the security zone. The force blew up houses belonging to Hizballah members and to elements that cooperate with them. This is in keeping with IDF and SLA policy to prevent any quiet in the villages that cooperate with the terrorist organizations. The villagers claimed that 10 civilians were injured in the village. UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon] soldiers came to the village this morning to look into the villagers' claims.

Military sources stressed that the IDF and SLA have refrained from shelling the villages themselves. The artillery barrages are directed only at terrorist bases or at the roads connecting the villages in which they operate.

Four Jordanians Returned in Border Exchange

TA1311062091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Last night it was disclosed that the two Israeli youths who attempted to reach the Jordanian ancient site of Petra were returned home in exchange for the release of four Jordanian citizens. No details were released on the identity of the four. Qol Yisra'el reporter Mikha'el Tuchtfeld, who was down at the Allenby Bridge yesterday when the Israelis were returned, said he saw the four Jordanians cross the bridge back to Jordan.

Claims of Building Plans for Territories Denied

TA1011172091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Knesset Members [MK's] 'Oded Zucker and Hayim Oron from the Citizens Rights Movement say that next year the government plans to invest 864 million shekels in construction work in the territories. Information they have obtained indicates that 36 percent of all the apartments to be built next year will be in the territories and on the Golan Heights.

Arye Bar, the director general of the Construction and Housing Ministry, told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that there is still no decision on the location of planned housing in the 1992 work plan and that the data provided by MK's Zucker and Oron is incorrect.

Building Cuts Stem From U.S. 'Dictates'

TA1011185891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Construction and Housing Ministry officials have charged the Finance Ministry with caving in to U.S. dictates by limiting building options in greater Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza District, and the Golan. Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon met this morning with the prime minister and told him that he will raise the building cuts in one of the upcoming cabinet sessions.

Peace Now Claims New Settlement Built in Samaria

TA1211141291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] The Peace Now movement claims that a new settlement is currently being built 1 km from the settlement of Talmon "B" in Samaria. A Peace Now spokesman said that a Peace Now followup committee discovered that a road was being paved at the site. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that Peace Now sent a cable to Prime Minister Shamir demanding a halt to what it termed provocations aimed at derailing the peace process.

In response, Uri Ari'el, the secretary of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, said that what was being established at the site was the infrastructure for the permanent housing of Talmon "B" and that no new settlement was being built. Ari'el asserted that Peace Now's false declarations were designed to pressure the government to establish a Palestinian state.

Abu-Jabir: No Separate Peace Pact With Israel

*JN1211160991 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
11 Nov 91 p 1*

[Text] Amman—Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has stressed his country's categorical rejection of signing any separate peace agreement with Israel under any circumstances.

In a statement to AL-BAYAN, Abu-Jabir said that Jordan's position is constant, and stems from the unified Arab position which stresses action to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He also stressed continuous Jordanian-Syrian-Palestinian coordination on all issues.

Attempts To Reshuffle Government Face Obstacles

*JN0911085591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
9 Nov 91 pp 1, 5*

[By Nirmin Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Attempts by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri to reshuffle his government and avert a political crisis before the reconvening of Parliament in December appeared to run into hurdles Friday as the various proposals failed to provide the government with a stronger base in the Lower House.

According to government officials, Mr. al-Masri is not expected to reshuffle his government unless he can ensure a "solid 45 to 47 votes in any upcoming vote of confidence." The bargaining with the different parliamentary blocs has so far been unable to secure such a plurality and more realistic expectations continue to calculate a maximum of 43 votes in favour of the government.

So far a number of meetings between the prime minister and the 23-strong Muslim Brotherhood Bloc have only produced promises of adopting "passive" opposition to the government in return for the premier's National Parliamentary Bloc's support for the reelection of 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat as speaker of the Lower House.

The 18-member Constitution Bloc, on the other hand, has asked for six ministerial seats in addition to the government's support for their speaker candidate Dhuqan al-Hindawi, who is leader of the bloc. A source within the bloc, however, said his bloc was willing to bargain over the number of ministerial seats allotted the group if they were promised support for Mr. al-Hindawi's nomination.

To add to an already complex situation, the Democratic Bloc, which is the nucleus parliamentary representative of the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), has experienced splits in its positions towards Mr. al-Masri's government, as a result of administrative decisions taken by the cabinet recently and over Jordan's participation in the Madrid peace conference and ensuing Arab-Israeli negotiations. In an apparent shift of position towards the government a Democratic Bloc source, who recently said that his bloc would not continue its support of Mr. al-Masri's government, Friday said his group would judge Mr. al-Masri's government on the merits of its statement.

If Mr. al-Masri reshuffles his government to include the Constitution Bloc, officials and parliamentarians expect that at least 41 deputies will support Mr. al-Masri's government, including 17 members of the Constitution Bloc, 15 members of Mr. al-Masri's National Bloc, 5 independent Islamists and 4 Democratic Bloc members.

But although the observers do not dismiss the possibility of two or three extra votes in the government's favour, they also do not disregard the possibility that some members of the Constitution Bloc, which has no popular political or ideological base, would remain committed to their bloc's decision if they were excluded from the reshuffle.

Constitution Bloc leaders dismiss these fears by the government on the grounds that they have a "unified" position and will stand by their agreement with the government and work on allaying suspicions about their intentions.

"I think a judgment can only be made through open dialogue over these points and through the real test of reaching agreement," said a senior source from the Constitution Bloc.

Deficit Reduction, Tax Hike Steps Unveiled

*JN1211114191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
12 Nov 91 p 3*

[Text] Amman—(J.T.)—Burdens and obligations weighing on the government has forced it to try to reduce the deficit in the fiscal budget by nearly JD 80 million, said Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib Monday.

By relying on the domestic revenues to achieve that goal, the government has imposed a consumer tax, said the minister at a meeting with a group of industrialists at the Amman Chamber of Industry. The industrialists had reacted angrily over the government's move and a series of meetings were held at the chamber to examine the situation.

At Monday's meeting, the minister assured the industrialists that the government was keen on supporting all trends for investment in the industrial sector in Jordan and the ministry would do all it can to back the industrial development and help local industries find new markets abroad.

Mr. Abu-al-Raghib underlined the importance of cooperation between the private and public sectors in the course of overcoming the difficulties now facing the industrial sector.

The minister said that the government would re-examine a number of decisions that might impede industrial development and would introduce legislation that contribute towards boosting the national economy. The Ministry, he said, is considering an industrial sector scheme as a working plan for encouraging investments.

Referring to the heavy responsibilities and burdens facing Jordan, the minister said that the industrial sector can play a major role in boosting the economy and reducing the problem of unemployment.

The Jordanian industrialists had showed their opposition not only to the 10 per cent consumer tax, but also to a government proposed procedure to decrease customs duty on a series of imported products.

Particularly disturbing to manufacturers of low-priced consumer products such as chocolates and biscuits was the reduction in customs duty on similar imported products. Such reduction, they argued, will clear the way for the imported product to dominate the market at the expense of the local product.

Speaking at the meeting Monday, Chamber President Khaldun Abu- Hassan stressed the industrial sector's pledge to cooperate with the government to help stimulate the national economy and reach agreements through dialogue. Mr. Abu-Hassan also referred to the negative aspects of the latest decision of imposing a consumer tax and their negative impact on the economy.

Muhammad's Army Trial Resumes; Defendants Confess

NC1111202291 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Report by MBC Television correspondent Sa'd al-Silawi in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Silawi] The Jordanian state security court has resumed the trials of the organization calling itself Muhammad's Army, which carried out a number of operations against security officers in public places and cultural centers. I have managed to obtain a tape from some security sources revealing the full confessions of some of the members in the organization regarding their operations.

[Begin recording] [First defendant] A responsible official in the organization, Tal'at Abu-'Amarah, asked me to kill an officer in the al-Bayadir area by booby trapping his car with a bomb.

[Second defendant] The names used by the organization are the Muslim Mujahidun [al-mujahidun al-muslimun], Muhammad's Army [jaysh muhammad], and the Secret Islamic Army [al-jaysh al-islami al-sirri].

[Third defendant] The financing comes from mosques that collect contributions.

[Fourth defendant] The organization did not carry out any combat action inside Palestine. [end recording]

[Al-Silawi] I asked Deputy Hamzah Mansur of the Muslim Brotherhood about the Brotherhood's relationship with the fundamentalist organization.

[Begin Mansur recording] I am fully convinced that there is no such thing as Muhammad's Army. Muhammad's Army is a slogan and not an organization. It is a slogan our kinfolk in Palestine have repeated: Khaybar, Khaybar, o you Jews, Muhammad's Army shall return. It has been repeated in Jordan, Egypt, and even in the United States right in front of the White House. A demonstration walked outside the White House chanting Khaybar, Khaybar, O you Jews, Muhammad's Army shall return [Khaybar, an oasis north of Medina from which caliph 'Umar expelled the Jews in 635]. When the chanters say Muhammad's Army shall return, they actually mean that 1.25 billion Muslims are directly responsible for our holy shrines in the land of Palestine. Therefore, I truly believe there is no organization called Muhammad's Army; it is merely a slogan and not an organization.

[Al-Silawi] How about the people who are now being interrogated and tried?

[Mansur] In my opinion, these people have been dragged here so that the Islamic current will be put on trial. The Islamic awakening is being tried through some individuals who have been dragged over to this place.

[Al-Silawi] The deputies of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Jordanian House of Representatives have sent a memorandum to the prime minister asking him to consider the statements by the fundamentalist organization null and void because they have been coerced by the security organs. [end recording]

Writer Opposes Media Normalization With Israel

JN0511130491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Nov 91 p 2

["An Issue and Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "Media and Cultural Normalization"]

[Text] Through the demands and maneuvers of the Israeli delegation in Madrid, skillful attempts to translate the "normalization" into substantial practice were noted.

It was noted that the main concern of Israel is "normalization" because normalization for Israel represents the main objective of the peace process. The normalization Israel seeks covers the political, economic, commercial, and cultural relations, and so forth.

Therefore, the Israeli delegation's maneuver of insisting on moving the direct bilateral negotiations from Madrid to the capitals of the Arab region meets and realizes this objective. Even the direct negotiations, which were originally an Israeli demand, are aimed only at attaining normalization.

It is comforting that the Arab delegations, particularly the Jordanian delegation, are fully aware of the dimensions and meanings of this Israeli maneuver for which huge Zionist media and press teams were mobilized and employed. The Arab delegations are also aware of and alert to these exposed Israeli attempts.

It is regrettable that the Israeli media and press, including the television, have succeeded in breaking our solid fence and penetrating our weak points by interviewing elements that are considered part of our press family within the framework of the campaign it is launching to attain media, political, and cultural normalization.

The interviews conducted by Israeli television with some Arab elements who sped up normalization by launching it at the media and cultural levels, and deliberately offered normalization to the Israeli enemy before Israel returns any Arab or Palestinian rights or territory to their owners, should be viewed with utmost seriousness and responsibility.

Media Contact With Israel Criticized

JN1111094891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Nov 91 p 3

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—A prominent Jordanian journalist has been expelled from the Jordanian Writers' Federation (JWF) for allowing himself to be interviewed by the Israeli media during the Middle East peace conference held in Madrid last week.

Another columnist, coming under fire for the same charges, announced Sunday that he was stopping his column until further notice.

Sultan al-Hattab, a columnist at the Arab-language daily Al-Ra'y and the former chief editor of Sawt-al-Sha'b, and Tawfiq Abu-Bakr of Al-Dustur had also come under criticism from the Jordan Writers' Society, of which they are not members.

The decision to expel Mr. al-Hattab was taken Sunday, according to the deputy chief of the JWF, Diya' al-Din al-Rifa'i.

"Mr. al-Hattab's membership has been withdrawn and he is no longer a member of the federation as of Sunday," Mr. al-Rifa'i was quoted as saying. "This is a moral punishment for Mr. al-Hattab for his contacts with Israel," he told the Associated Press [AP].

What remained unclear was whether Mr. al-Hattab was indeed a member of the federation, which had faded into the background after the Jordan Writers' Society reemerged as part of the democratisation process under way in Jordan.

The "federation" was set up as an alternative to the "society" in 1988 after the then government headed by Zayd al-Rifa'i suspended the latter, which was perceived to be dominated by leftist writers.

The society was revived in early 1990 when the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran lifted the suspension. Lost in the bargain was the influence exerted by the JWF. Apparently, Mr. al-Hattab was considered a member by the JWF since he did not become a member of the revived Jordan Writers' Society.

Contacted by the Jordan Times, Mr. al-Hattab declined direct comment on the JWF's decision. "I would not like to make any comment now," he said. However, he added, "I am continuing my columns in Al- Ra'y and I can defend myself." Mr. al-Hattab's daily column has been absent from the newspaper over the past two week.

Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif said the ministry had no plan whatsoever to interfere in the matter, although he described it as "political" in nature.

"It is an independent union and it is free to do what it decides under its laws and procedures," Mr. al-Sharif told the Jordan Times. "The Ministry of Information has nothing to do with it and does not plan to interfere in the matter."

Mr. al-Sharif said Mr. al-Hattab had contacted him complaining that he was not a member of the JWF. "If that is indeed the case, I hope the federation has taken into consideration the proper procedures," the minister said.

The controversy started when Mr. al-Hattab, who was among the Jordanian media team attending the Madrid conference, was interviewed by Israel Television.

The interview was seen by many Jordanian writers, both leftist and rightist, as violating the code of conduct which calls for shunning all contacts with the Israeli media.

The interviews given by Mr. al-Hattab as well as Mr. Abu-Bakr fuelled the emotions of those who reject the U.S.-led peace process.

Opposition groups argue that Israel is only seeking normalisation of relations with the Arab states without properly addressing the Palestinian problem and as such any action seen as normalised relations with the Jewish state should be avoided.

Many others say it is too early for any interaction between the Jordanian and Israeli media since the Jewish state continues to occupy Arab land and the peace process, which got off in Madrid, has a long way to go before an acceptable solution to the core conflict is reached.

Another school of thought, in the minority, argues that Jordanians should take advantage of any access to the Israeli media and address the Israeli people and talk about the unjust and oppressive policies of their government.

Mr. Abu-Bakr, meanwhile, announced that he was suspending writing for Al-Dustur as of Sunday. In a column titled "Clarification and Apology," Mr. Abu-Bakr said he was caught in a situation where he could not refuse questions from the Israeli media among the multitude of media channels which were present in Madrid.

Mr. Abu-Bakr, a Palestinian journalist, endorsed the view that any normalisation of cultural relations with Israel was premature.

Mr. al-Hattab was quoted as saying by the AP that his objective in giving the interview to Israel Television was "to serve the Jordanian strategic goal and to explain to the Israeli masses the official position of the Kingdom."

"I did not do anything wrong," he said. "I neither praised Israel nor called for establishing bilateral relations with Israel."

Hashim Khuraysat, president of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), who was also in Madrid for the conference, denied reports that the JPA was considering expelling Mr. al-Hattab.

"No such measure is being considered," Mr. Khuraysat, who is also chief editor of Sawt al-Sha'b, told the Jordan Times.

The theme that media interaction could be seen as part of normalisation of cultural relations was raised by the Jordan Writers' Society headed by Fakhri Qa'war, a columnist and member of the Lower House of Parliament.

"We were surprised at seeing two Jordanian writers on the Israeli screen," said a statement issued by the society last week. "We also noticed that the Zionist media correspondents had deliberately sought to lure many Arabs to talk to their media channels, but many would not be drawn into that trap which was meant to normalise cultural relations."

The statement "condemned those involved" and warned against "any normalisation of cultural relations with the Zionists and we consider it to be a danger to our national identity."

It said the "essence of the Zionist culture and thinking is based on rejecting other cultures and thinking. So does the Israeli strategy, which is based on expansion and the denial of the Palestinian existence.

"It is impossible to normalise relations with the Zionist culture and thinking since it would amount to reconciliation with a racist regime, which looks at other races condescendingly," the statement added.

Islamic Deputies Ask Access to Official Media

JN1011105091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—The Islamic Movement (Muslim Brotherhood) deputies have sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri in which they said: "Our opposition is not for the sake of opposition nor is it aimed at practicing one-upmanship over anybody, but proceeds from our eagerness over the interest of our homeland and nation. Pursuing democratic means, our opposition is a factor for stability and confidence in our country."

The memorandum requests that the opposition be viewed as a "healthy, constructive phenomenon." It asks that opposition be allowed access to the official media—radio and television—that the press be given freedom of expression, and that free opinions be sanctioned in a healthy democratic atmosphere." The memorandum calls for allowing the opposition to "use peaceful means to express its views through the media and organized rallies and to publish the AL-RIBAT newspaper in the country."

The memorandum also says that the 11th House of Representatives is an object of pride for Jordan and a model to be emulated by many Arab parliaments. It adds that the House upholds the homeland's principles and its stands reflect a high sense of responsibility and constitute a safety valve for the country.

U.S. Offer on Army Move in Jazzin Turned Down

NC1211133391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] A Lebanese Government source has told the Abu Dhabi-based newspaper AL-ITTIHAD that Lebanon turned down a U.S. offer to allow the Lebanese Army to deploy in Jazzin in exchange for a freeze on resistance operations. The report has not been confirmed in Beirut. The source gave two reasons for Lebanon's refusal: First, the government has no right to stop the resistance operations because it is one way of protesting the occupation and holding on to the territories; second, accepting such an offer without setting a timetable for an Israeli withdrawal would be tantamount to renouncing Resolution 425.

Prime Minister Criticizes President's Performance

NC1311105491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has expressed his displeasure with the performance of President Ilyas al-Hirawi. He asked: Does the Constitution allow the president to travel alone to any country and hold talks with senior officials—as he did when he visited France, Italy, and the Vatican—and make government commitments before consulting the cabinet? Does he have the right to hold a summit with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad without the prime minister, regardless of the topics discussed? Does he have the right to summon senior officials to his office without the appropriate minister being present?

The prime minister, as cited by AL-NAHAR, hoped that every official will exercise the authority specified by the Constitution on the basis of the al-Ta'if agreement for the sake of good government and to correct the course.

Buwayz on Bilateral Talks Venue, Resolution 425

NC1211183991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that, for a simple reason, he does not see any justification for moving the venue of bilateral negotiations with Israel from Madrid.

After meeting with the Chamber of Deputies speaker, Buwayz said this reason is that we feel Israel is trying to evade the pressure the United States is placing on it. Therefore, he added, Israel is attempting to move the conference to locations where the Americans and the Soviets perhaps will not be (?represented) at a very high level. He noted: Our stand is completely the opposite. We consider the (?presence) and ability of the two giants to pressure Israel as one of the guarantees allowing us to accept the conference invitation. Therefore, any venue for the conference is linked to the quality, intensity, and level of the U.S. and Soviet presence. Therefore, we did not agree on the venue.

Replying to a question about reports that Washington has asked Lebanon to strike at Hizballah in return for the Army's deployment in Jazzin, Buwayz said: We have not accepted, nor will we accept this issue to be raised in such a manner. We have a firm stand in this respect, for we believe that Resolution 425 should be implemented without conditions in accordance with the essence of this resolution. We cannot ask anyone to halt any action as long as we do not have a sure guarantee on a firm commitment about Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. When we do have such a guarantee, the matter will be dealt with accordingly.

Israel Must Free Lebanese Before Hostage Release

NC1211164791 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 11 Nov 91 p 7

[Text] According to a well-informed source, the ball is now in Israel's court on the issue of the foreign hostages in Lebanon, and to push it forward Israel now has to release Lebanese detainees, including Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd.

The hostages issue has, said the source, become strictly confined to an exchange between the kidnappers and Israel, now that the issue of frozen Iranian assets in the United States is no longer a bargaining matter.

Iran's Khonsari on Hostages, Aid to al-Biqa'

NC1311100891 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Mohammad Khonsari, director of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Middle East department, has announced that his country hopes that all remaining hostages will be released by the end of this month. He accused certain parties, whom he declined to identify, of hindering this development. He said he wishes UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar success in his efforts to end the hostage issue.

Khonsari described Iranian financial assistance to the south and the western al-Biqa' as symbolic. He noted that Iranian officials are considering sending aid to the Palestinian camps in the south.

Interior Minister Chairs Meeting on AUB Blast

NC1211192291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Staff Major General Sami al-Khatib, interior minister, chaired a security meeting this evening attended by Maj. Gen. Muhammad al-Qubrusli, Internal Security Forces general director; Brigadier General Ahmad Fawwaz, commander of the department charged with foreign embassies security; Brig. Gen. Samir Sha-'rani, Beirut police commander; Brig. Gen. Salim Yasin, inspector general of the Internal Security Forces; Lieutenant Colonel Tarabay, commander of Beirut 2d Judicial Detachment; and other security commanders.

In reply to a question on the purpose of the meeting, Minister al-Khatib said:

[Begin recording] This meeting is for discussing the challenges we may have to confront. The bombing of the American University of Beirut [AUB] was an early sign of such challenges. We also discussed issues related to security in southern Lebanon and other areas, particularly in Ba'labakk, where a major security incident recently occurred. These incidents necessitated our meeting. We in the security forces and departments dealing with security issues affecting daily life will hold meetings to assess our performance. Anyone can make a mistake. In our meeting today we assessed the past stage, praised those whose performance was good, and pinpointed those whose performance was poor. We seek to improve our standards and preserve the people's confidence in this establishment, on whose performance the citizens' security depends. We also discussed the security forces' preparedness, equipment, and organization. We will give instructions for confronting the future stage firmly and in line with the peace policy and the national accord plan that the government devised beginning 13 October.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister, we have not [words indistinct] about the AUB blast?

[Al-Khatib] We receive new information every day regarding the AUB bombing, but it is not in our interest to reveal it, because we may be able to determine the perpetrators and then we will disclose everything. Also, we may not achieve results. Therefore, we do not want to deceive ourselves or divert the course of the investigations. We will let things proceed normally. The information we have is good and we are using it well in the interest of the investigations. [end recording]

Army Commander on Military Role Following Madrid

NC1211094191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] In an interview with the AL-JAYSH [Army] magazine, Army Commander General Emile Lahhud discussed Army strategy for dealing with the results of the Madrid peace conference. The convening of the Madrid conference has moved the entire region, including Lebanon, into a fateful phase, he said. In this phase, we need to address events and possible changes cautiously and in a studied manner to protect Lebanon within its internationally recognized borders, to preserve its resources and wealth—with which we are entrusted—without bargaining and vying with each other, Lahhud noted. We are also required to ensure a just peace for the people of Lebanon, he noted, a peace they deserve by virtue of the blood sacrificed by thousands of martyrs, wounded, and disabled. Who but the Army is capable of ensuring this great guarantee? Who but the Army is capable of strengthening the Lebanese negotiating hand for our legitimate rights without paying a price or relinquishing any of the rights? This requires us, the military, to maintain vigilance and a high level of national duty, to be prepared to confront these requirements and to persist in developing our institution to render it stronger and better, the Army commander said, concluding: When peace comes, it always needs a force to protect and maintain it.

Israeli Actions in South Continue

Nine Wounded in Shelling

NC1211205891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] The 'Arab Salim, Tibnin, Shaqra, Tulin, Haddathah, and Jarju' towns were shelled this morning as Israeli aircraft conducted mock raids over the area. Four people were wounded during the shelling of Tibnin and five were wounded in Haddathah.

QNA cited Western diplomatic sources in Beirut as saying they fear Israel may launch a large-scale military operation in the south leading to a confrontation with Syria beginning in al-Biqa'.

Israeli Commandoes Raid Village

NC1311083591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] According to security reports from the south, an Israeli commando unit advanced into the northeastern part of Qabrikha at midnight. The force withdrew in the morning under cover of an artillery barrage directed at (Wadi al-Hujayr), the northern quarter of Qabrikah, and the old quarter of al-Qantarah.

Tension High

NC1211075191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Security sources report that tension is high in a number of areas bordering the security zone, adding that 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Jarju', and 'Arab Salim came under artillery fire yesterday. Other reports indicate that Israeli helicopters overflew a nunber of areas and dropped illumination flares.

REUTER has cited UN security sources saying that four people were wounded by the shelling of Tibnin village in the south. South Lebanese Army forces defused a bomb planted by fundamentalist gunmen near the Tibnin crossing point.

Birri on Events in South, Aftermath of Madrid

NC1211090991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Amal Movement leader and Minister Nabih Birri has said that what is happening in the south is worse than an invasion, and noted that the Army must be at full strength to defend the south. He added that the funds given to the South Council and southerners are wholly inadequate.

Birri said that what is taking place behind the scenes in Lebanon is the implementation of Resolution 425 and the linking of the Israeli and Syrian withdrawals.

Birri said that the Madrid conference virtually rendered Resolution 425 null and void.

Iranian Delegation Visits Southern Towns

NC1211092991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] The Iranian delegation continues its tour of the areas of confrontation with the Zionist occupation troops. The delegation, comprised of Homayun 'Alizadeh, Iranian charge d'affaires in Lebanon; His Eminence Khonsari, director general of the Middle East and North Africa Affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry; and Dr. Vahid-Dastjerdi, secretary general of the Islamic Red Crescent Society, has visited the western al-Biqa' region. Delegation members toured the villages of Mashgharah, 'Ayn al-Tinah, and Maydun.

His eminence Shaykh 'Abbas Diba emphasized that the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran care for the people of the south and of al- Biqa' and do their best to assist the Muslims because they are loyal to the Prophet's traditions.

His eminence al-Sayyid Khonsari gave a speech in which he conveyed the greetings of Ayatollah al-Sayyid Khamene'i, saying that the leader of the Islamic revolution remembers the valiant resistance against Israel. When the Islamic Republic heard of the Zionist aggressions against our Muslim people, he added, it hastened to send medical and food supplies to express its sympathy over the situation. He stressed that the Islamic Republic will stand with the people of the south and of western al-Biqa' in the face of the malicious Zionist attacks. This is why, he added, it made an emergency purchase of food and medical supplies to send them to your steadfast and patient people. Khonsari expressed his admiration of the high morale shown by the people in the south and western al- Biqa', who remained in their homes and land despite the bombardment and the damage inflicted by the aggressor.

The Iranian delegation spent the past two days in the south. Yesterday they concluded a tour of Sidon, where they visited the headquarters of the Islamic Group and met with Dr. 'Ali al-Shaykh 'Ammar, the group's political officer, and a number of the group's political bureau members. The delegation visited Sidon's general hospital, where a meeting was held with hospital Director Dr. Ibrahim 'Atwah, directors of other hospitals in Sidon, and a number of physicians and ulema.

Brother Vahid-Destjerdi gave a speech in which he said that the distribution of supplies among the southern villages is continuing, noting that this is both a duty and a humanitarian task for the Islamic Republic.

Dr. Usamah Sa'd, Nasirite Popular Organization deputy secretary general, thanked Iran for its assistance on behalf of the Sidon people. He urged the Ministry of Health to pay attention to government hospitals and ensure medical care to the citizens in view of the chaotic situation in the Lebanese health services.

Khonsari conveyed Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's greetings to the Lebanese people. He said that the arrival of the delegation under the current circumstances provide the best proof possible that the Islamic Republic is standing beside the Lebanese people.

The delegation then visited al-Nabatiyah, where members met with a number of Hizballah officials and with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Husayn Sadiq, imam of al-Nabatiyah. They later inspected the damage inflicted on the areas hit during the raids.

After the visit, Khonsari said that Hizballah and all believers will not be thwarted by these aggressive acts, which will increase their determination to fight the Zionist enemy.

Al-Asad Meets U.S. Syrians, Notes Shamir Remarks

JN1111172991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] This morning President Hafiz al-Asad received Archbishop Philip Saliba of the Antioch Orthodox Church and a delegation from the Syrian Arab community in the United States, currently visiting the country.

After the president welcomed them to their original homeland, Archbishop Philip Saliba and several delegation members expressed their pride in Syria's policies of working toward peace in the region under President Hafiz al-Asad. They also expressed pride in the image portrayed by the Syrian delegation in Madrid—an image which stressed Syria's eagerness to achieve peace without relinquishing Arab rights.

They stressed the readiness of Syrian Arabs in the United States to work to support Arab causes and serve their motherland, Syria. They said that Syrian Arab expatriates in the United States have a role which they are eager to maintain and that those expatriates wish to be representatives of their motherland and the Arab nation.

The president answered questions from members of the delegation concerning the Madrid conference, the peace process, and Syrian policy. He stressed that, as shown by their presence at the Madrid peace conference, by the speeches delivered by the chief Arab delegates to the conference, and by the stands they adopted, Syria and all Arabs are eager to work for peace. As for Israel, the president continued, it is not serious, as evidenced by the two speeches delivered by its chief delegate, which were void of any reference to the UN resolutions upon which the conference was held, or to the land-for-peace principle. Moreover, in his speech, he insisted that the occupied Arab territories are Israeli territories, the president noted.

The president said that the Arabs are following the peace conference honestly and earnestly. Meanwhile, Israel is trying by all means possible to obstruct the peace process.

Having listened to some members of the delegation explain their efforts in the United States to support the Arab nation's causes, the president stressed to them that the more organized they are, the more powerful and influential they will become. He wished them further success in their lives and in serving Arab causes.

AL-BA'TH Views Knesset Decision on Golan

JN1211080191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Nov 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Enemy, and Further Proof That It Rejects Peace," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The announcement of the adjournment of the Madrid conference meetings after the conclusion of the first phase was not a declaration of halting the peace process. International efforts have continued toward starting the second phase, which Israel is attempting to obstruct, just as it did with the first phase.

AL-BA'TH adds: What has become clear and certain is that the enemy's failure to obstruct the first phase of the peace process prompted it to escalate its efforts to escape from the second phase, which will directly tackle implementation of international resolutions, and explore how willing the occupiers are to respond favorably to international legitimacy, and to the resolutions it passed—resolutions which reject the use of force to seize the territory of others, oppose rewarding military aggression, and have clear provisions regarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

AL-BA'TH notes: Although the world no longer needs further proof that Israel rejects peace, Israel provides daily proof and evidence that it seeks to torpedo the entire peace process. This is exactly what it did yesterday when the Knesset voted in favor of a new draft resolution confirming adherence to the occupied Golan.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: This position, in addition to hundreds of other positions which are marked by terrorism, repression, and settlement building, show the big difference between peace advocates and peace opponents. This was reiterated yesterday by leader al-Asad to representatives of our community in the United States. Leader al-Asad's remarks on the issue have only expressed a fact which the world community is well aware of. This community should act in accordance with its awareness of this fact.

Comment Deems Resolution Null, Void

JN1211164191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel's rulers are still living in a different age and are feeding their sick thoughts and dreams. They behave as though the Madrid conference never occurred, the world is not concerned with establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and that it will not eventually ask them to present a list of their actions which endanger global stability and security.

Yitzhaq Shamir's aides mobilized a number of pro-extremism members of the Zionist Knesset to adopt an urgent resolution deeming the occupied Syrian Golan an inseparable part of the alleged land of Israel and a necessary element for its security. The resolution also asks the government to encourage settlements in the Syrian Golan Heights with all available means.

Out of 38 Israeli deputies who gathered at the Knesset, which comprises 120 members, the resolution was supported by 26 deputies and was opposed by 12. This resolution has come to reaffirm the previous annexation decision which was made in 1981. This resolution has not added anything other than affirming the belief that it, like its predecessor, has not changed the fact that the Golan is Syrian territory, that its sons refuse to deal with Israel and adhere to their national identity, and that the international community considers any measure in that direction null, void, and worthless, and emphasizes Syria's established and solid right to restore its occupied territory.

The second resolution adopted yesterday by the Knesset is part of continued Israeli provocations aimed at the U.S. Administration's peace efforts and the efforts of the international community before targeting Syria, which demands full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and views Jerusalem, the Golan, and every other occupied Arab territory on the same level.

Yitzhaq Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, was quick to announce, on the occasion of his meeting with F.W. de Klerk, president of the racist regime in South Africa, that Israel will not make any concessions to the Arabs and will never withdraw from the occupied territories, and will not recognize Palestinian rights; most of all the right to self-determination. Yitzhaq Shamir should have learned from the experiment of de Klerk—who found himself forced after years of practicing racial discrimination and ignoring rights, freedom, independence and self-determination for the people of South Africa, to cancel many measures of repression and racial discrimination and to deal with the nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, who spent his life in prison and under detention.

Today, no one—not even de Klerk himself—doubts that the system of racial discrimination is over, and that the African people, whom the racist whites had tried to silence and whose identity they tried to erase, will take control of their destiny and decide their future on their own. Perhaps Shamir is today the last racist on earth who adheres to sick arguments that are condemned by everyone around the world, such as occupation, expansion, and settlements under the pretext of security, and committing acts of aggression under the same pretext as he is doing today in southern Lebanon.

The brutal Israeli shelling of villages and towns in southern Lebanon has been continuing for 15 days with the clear objective of terrorizing the Lebanese Government into not demanding the implementation of Resolution 425 and to disengage itself from Arab causes. The Israelis are also trying to incite a tense and explosive atmosphere that is violently opposed to the atmosphere of peace and relaxation that the United States, backed by the international community, seeks to entrench in the Middle East as a catalyst for advancing the peace negotiations and reaching a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

The Knesset resolution to usurp the Golan, Shamir's provocative statements, and the Israeli forces' aggression in southern Lebanon are all part of the Shamir government's hostility to peace and its relentless efforts to expand and occupy. But the age of colonialism and occupation is gone forever. The fact that Shamir or anyone else cannot deny is that the occupied territories—Jerusalem, the Golan, and the West Bank, Gaza, and south Lebanon—are Arab territories that will surely return to their rightful owners, that there will be no peace in the Middle East without the return of these territories, and that the international community is directly concerned with establishing peace in the Middle East. The international community will not allow Israel to continue its occupation and ignore the Palestinians' rights because the core of Madrid conference, and the subsequent future negotiations, is the realization of a just and comprehensive peace that abrogates all forms of occupation and provides the Palestinian people with their national legitimate rights.

Talas Says Madrid Exposed Israeli Intentions

JN1211184491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, general commander of the Army and the Armed Forces, and within the framework of our Armed Forces' celebrations of the 21st anniversary of the blessed corrective movement, a graduation ceremony for new graduates of the Female Military College was held today.

General Mustafa Talas, deputy general commander of the Army and Armed Forces and deputy prime minister and defense minister, attended the ceremony on behalf of the president. [passage omitted]

General Talas, representative of the general commander, delivered a speech in which he conveyed the greetings of leader al-Asad and his wish that the graduates achieve success in their military careers, and in carrying out the nationalist and pan-Arab duties which will be assigned to them. [passage omitted]

General Talas reviewed the results of Madrid peace conference and explained Israel's role in obstructing the conference and preempting it from its stated purposes. He said: It has become clear to the entire world, by way of the Madrid peace conference, that Israel does not want peace, that it is trying to torpedo this conference, and to preempt it from its contents, principles, and bases. In his speech at the conference, and in his reply to the speeches of the Arab delegations, the terrorist Shamir exposed the ways used by Israel to evade the peace process. He turned the facts of the past and present upside down and created a new history. When he was cornered by the historical facts and events, which are documented with irrefutable evidence about Israel's policy and its aggressive and expansionist positions, he resorted to a desperate attempt to try to divert the conference and keep it from the objective for which it was held.

In his speech, General Talas lauded the reasonable Arab position at the conference—the position that exposed the aggressive intentions of Israel and exposed its false allegations to international public opinion. The unified Arab position has furnished evidence to the whole world of the Arabs' desire to realize a just and comprehensive peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of land for peace. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Returns After Cairo Meetings

JN1211054891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Cairo—Foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatories held their fifth session of meetings in Cairo today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' led the Syrian delegation to the talks. During the meetings, the conferees reviewed the topics listed on their agenda, and exchanged views on proposals related to implementing the principles and objectives contained in the Damascus Declaration. The meetings were concluded this evening. A final statement referring these proposals to the governments of the eight countries for consideration and consultations was issued, pending convening of the sixth session in Doha, Qatar, in the second half of April. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the delegation accompanying him have returned to Damascus. Prior to his departure from Cairo, he met at his place of residence in Cairo with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. The talks dealt with bilateral ties and regional developments. Afterward, he met with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, in the presence of PLO Executive Committee member Shafiq al-Hut. The talks dealt with the Arab state of affairs, and coordinating Arab positions vis-a-vis upcoming steps in the peace process.

Ba'th Party's Al-Ahmar Receives Fatah Delegation

JN1211193691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Damascus, 12 Nov (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received a Fatah delegation lead by Muhammad Ghunaym, Fatah Central Committee member.

Discussions during the meeting centered on the peace process, and the importance of Arab coordination and joint action to confront the Israeli challenges that are hostile to peace and to expose the expansionist nature of the aggressive Israeli policy.

They underscored the Arab position which desires and is sincere about achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, based on international legitimacy and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, leading to Israeli withdrawal from the Arab occupied territories and the recognition of the national and legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. They also discussed other issues of mutual interest.

India

Rao Denies Delhi Sabotaged SAARC Talks

BK0911065091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has asserted that India has not sabotaged the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] meeting and that the allegations are totally baseless. He was talking to newsmen at Dabolim airport in Goa this morning.

When asked whether he will attend the proposed one-day SAARC meeting to be held in the near future, Mr. Rao said he has not received any proposal or suggestion in the matter. He said if another meeting is held, he will certainly go, and quipped: Where is the question of not going?

On the Kashmir problem, the prime minister expressed the hope that the situation will normalize soon following certain hard decisions. After a brief halt at the airport, Mr. Narasimha Rao left the helicopter [as heard] for Karnataka for election campaigns.

Discusses Foreign Exchange Issue

BK0911094091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has denied reports that India is responsible for the postponement of the Colombo SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit. He said all the allegations on the issue are totally baseless. Talking to newsmen at Dabolim Airport in Goa this morning, Mr. Rao said he would attend the SAARC summit once new dates are announced. He said the postponement of the meet is only due to absence of some member countries on their own.

Later, addressing a public meeting at Haveri in Karnataka, Mr. Narasimha Rao said all efforts will be made to increase the foreign exchange reserve to 10,000 crore rupees from the present 6,000 crore rupees. He asked non-resident Indians to come forward to invest in the country's industrial projects, especially in high-tech areas in view of the prevailing changed economic climate. Mr. Rao has deplored it is unfortunate that some parts of the country have witnessed violence in the name of caste, religion, and secessionism in the recent past.

Mr. Narasimha Rao asserted that the nation which has lost its prestige due to wrong policies adopted by the earlier government is gaining ground in recent months. He also underlined the need for proper coordinated irrigation development for the benefit of farmers.

Solanki Says Visit to Tehran Opens 'New Chapter'

BK1211161291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] India and Iran have decided to expand cooperation in several fields, particularly industry, trade, and agriculture. An Indian delegation is to visit Tehran shortly to identify areas for joint venture projects. The fifth session of the Indo-Iran joint commission which ended in Tehran yesterday discussed specific areas of collaboration. Two memoranda of understanding in the fields of agriculture and consular matters were signed. The two sides also signed a new three-year program for cultural and scientific exchanges.

The external affairs minister, Mr. Madhav Singh Solanki, who led the Indian side, said the meeting has opened a new chapter in Indo-Iran relations. Talking to newsmen on his return to New Delhi this evening, Mr. Solanki said that Iran has shown sensitivity to our concerns and extended full support to India's territorial integrity. He said the Iranian president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, made it clear that Iran does not want to interfere in India's internal matters. Iran categorically stated that it treats Kashmir as India's internal matter. Mr. Solanki said both sides agreed to facilitate the issue of visas to businessmen and others within seven days.

Delhi Opposes Pakistan's Nuclear-Free Proposal

BK1211082691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] India has opposed the Pakistani proposal to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone. The proposal cosponsored by Bangladesh secured 104 votes in favor and three against in the UN General Assembly's Political and Security Committee yesterday.

Explaining India's principal opposition to the proposal, the Indian ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Prakash Shah, said the sponsors of the move did not hold prior consultations with the countries in the region, which is essential for its success. He said nuclear weapons existed in the geographical region of India's security concerned. In a significant development, the Soviet Union, which has all along supported India on the issue, voted in favor of the Pakistani proposal.

Pakistan Capable of Producing 10 Nuclear Bombs

BK1011035691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Pakistan is reported to have acquired enough triton capable of producing 10 nuclear bombs. This was stated by the defense minister's scientific adviser and defense research and development organization chief, Dr. B.H. Arunachalam. Speaking at the economic editors' conference in New Delhi yesterday, Dr. Arunachalam said that this estimate is based on published material and other sources.

Official on Narora Atomic Power Plant Features

BK0811164691 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 25 Oct 91 pp 1, 24

[By Rajendra Prabhu]

[Text] Narora, Oct. 24—Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Dr P.K. Iyengar claimed here today that the Narora Atomic Power Plant [NAPP] is safe against earthquakes as "nothing at all happened" during the recent earthquake to it.

Speaking to media people after the second 220 MW unit of the plant became critical at 4.40 a.m. here today, Dr Iyengar said that the plant had been designed to withstand an acceleration of 0.3 G [a G is equal to force caused by acceleration of 25 feet per second] while the recent earthquake had an intensity of only 0.025, he pointed out. The plant would trip at 0.1 G so that there was no chance of the plant continuing to function in case there was high seismic activity.

The second unit in which the uranium fuel element started chain reaction thereby attaining criticality will take a few more days to start generating power. Dr Iyengar hoped that within two months the fire generation would be stabilised and the power connected to the grid. The first 220 MW unit is already generating 125 MM power for the last two years and is likely to be given permission to go to full power generation of 220 MW.

Dr Iyengar pointed that the Moradabad fault nearby was in east-west direction while the intensity of any earthquake was likely to be in the north-south direction. This itself provided protection to the plant. The design of the plant had taken into account all seismic data collected from up to 300 KM around the plant. The Department of Atomic Energy itself was continuously monitoring seismic activity in all areas of interest to it. "This plant is the safest nuclear power plant," he said and assured "there will be no Chernobyl here." The Atomic Energy Chairman detailed various safety measures built into the plant and claimed that in the event of any dangers, overheated core of the reactor would be defused within 2.4 seconds by two features, namely shut down through control rods followed by injection of boron-rich water which will absorb the neutrons and stop their reaction in the core. This was in addition to other features like double containment and no contact between radioactive heavy water and the light water used for cooling which is let out. He also said that due to the new design of cooling towers, very little water from Ganga would be drawn for cooling purposes and most of the water would be recycled.

Dr Iyengar refuted the charge that the nuclear power was unsafe and claimed that there was very little radiation going into the environment from the plant and therefore it posed no danger to any of the villages around or to the workers within the plant. He also said that the Rs [rupees] 650-crore plant was cheaper than thermal power in regard to investment and generation costs.

The second unit of the Narora Atomic Power Plant became critical today, marking another important milestone in India's nuclear power programme.

At full power, it will generate 235 megawatts. Commercial operation is expected to start early next year, Mr S.L. Kati, managing director of the Nuclear Power Corporation, said.

Apart from Mr Kati, Dr P.K. Iyengar, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, and other senior officials of the Department of Atomic Energy were present when the reactor became critical at 4.40 a.m. today.

NAPP is a modified version of the power reactors in Kalpakkam near Madras. The Narora design has been standardised and will be adopted from all future reactors. The first unit of NAPP become critical on March 12, 1989 and began commercial production operation in July 1989.

With the commissioning of the second unit at Narora, India's nuclear power capacity rose to 1780 MW. But actual generation is less than 1000 MW since almost all the reactors are operating at less than maximum capacity.

The Narora plant took nearly 12 years to build and costs more than doubled because of the need to erect cooling towers and alter the design to meet earthquake safety standards.

Dr Iyengar told journalists the critical operation went smoothly. Scientific measurements on safety would be taken up in the next few weeks and the plant would be ready for putting electricity in the grid in the next couple of months. Dr Iyengar stressed "nothing happened at all during the earthquake in Almora on Sunday."

"The nuclear reactor will be the safest place to take shelter in a future earthquake," Dr Iyengar said, adding that the recent earthquake has shown the Narora plant "is safe even if there is a stronger earthqake in the future." The reactor will automatically shut down when the ground acceleration is more than 0.1 G, he said. "Fears about the safety of the Narora plant because of its location in a seismic zone have been dispelled," Mr Iyengar stressed.

Dr Iyengar said a lot of efforts have gone into the design of the Narora atomic project and the commissioning of the second unit will "bring soon the much needed relief to the power-hungry Northern grid system in the Western part of Uttar Pradesh." The 440 MW of power coming from the twin reactors in Narora would be shared by the constituent states and territories of the Northern grid region, he added.

The evolution of the Narora design has ensured that the Narora plant is capable of withstanding earthquakes even with epicentres of short distances.

Although the resource crunch had led to the slip-up of the 10,000 MW target, Dr Iyengar said but he hoped the target would be reached by 2002 or 2003 AD. "Even though the Narora plant took long to build, the lessons learnt have strengthened our design capacity and helped to standardise components which are manufactured indigenously." The Narora features two independent mechanisms of shut down and its design has been standardised for future reactors in India.

Six more Narora-type reactors are under construction at Kakarpar, Kaiga in Rajasthan, Mr Kati said.

According to him, the capital cost of NAPP including the interrupt during construction is less than Rs 16,000 per kilowatt, which after devaluation would be about $650 per KW. The present-day international cost is about $2,000 per KW.

The two reactors in Narora will burn 80 tonnes of uranium per year and as a by-product will produce 120 kg of plutonium which will be used as fuel in the fast breeder reactor in future.

The commissioning of the latest reactor "marks yet another landmark in the successful indigenisation of the nuclear power programme," Dr Iyengar said.

Gill Appointed Punjab Police Director General

BK0811162491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Mr. K.P.S. Gill has been posted back to Punjab as director general of police. He is presently director general of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force]. Dr. S. Subrahmaniam, presently director general of National Security Guards, takes over as director general of CRPF.

Our correspondent says that the posting of Mr. Gill to Punjab assumes significance as elections in the state are to be held before the 15th of February. His posting is considered as part of the government's efforts to bring the situation in the state back to normal.

Iran

PRC Construction Minister Arrives 12 Nov

NC1211084191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] PRC Construction Minister Hou Jie arrived in Tehran this morning. During his visit, Hou and his accompanying delegation will discuss PRC participation in the planning and implementation of construction projects and in other fields of cooperation between the two countries.

Discusses Construction With Kazeruni

LD1211132191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Iran and the PRC will cooperate in constructing residential townships. Kazeruni, housing and urban development minister, raised this issue during his first round of talks this morning with PRC Construction Minister Hou Jie, saying: The Islamic Republic's five-year economic plan envisages building about 2,000,000 residential units, and in this regard, we welcome cooperation with the PRC.

The PRC construction minister described the housing situation in his country, saying: If the ground were prepared, we would like to use the experience and cooperation of friendly countries, like Iran, in constructing residential units, and cooperation between Iran and the PRC in this field is appropriate.

Kalantari Meets Chinese Counterpart in Rome

NC1011075491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] The agriculture ministers of Iran and China met in Rome yesterday and discussed the two countries' agricultural problems. The Chinese agriculture minister discussed the recent Chinese president's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressed hopes that relations between the two countries will expand in all fields, especially agriculture.

Minister Kalantari expressed hopes that the Islamic Republic of Iran and China will have extensive cooperation in the field of agricultural training and the cultivation of sugar cane. Minister Kalantari is in Rome to attend a conference of agriculture ministers of 157 countries that are members of the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization.

Editorial Says Cooperation With PRC 'Crucial'

NC1011062791 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 30 Oct 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Tehran and Beijing Stepping in Right Direction"]

[Text] Together with the earlier trip in July this year of Premier Li Peng, the scheduled arrival in Tehran today of Chinese President Yang Shangkun marks an important development in Sino-Iran ties.

The first by a Chinese head of state since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the visit attests to the deepening of the traditionally good relationship enjoyed by the two countries.

The history of ties between Iran and China dates back more than centuries and has been quite exemplary considering that even in their days of empire, the two coexisted peacefully.

Recent developments make the broadening of high-level dialogues between Tehran and Beijing of utmost importance. With the collapse of old power structures, and Soviet leaders dancing to the Western tune, cooperation between China and Iran is crucial.

Both seek an international order that provides peace and security for all nations. Iran could be Beijing's link to the Middle East, which is coveted by the West. China, meanwhile, remains as the center of gravity for developing countries. And being a member of the U.N. Security Council, Beijing has a decisive role to play in safeguarding the interests of the poorer, oppressed countries and checking the expansionism of the West. More so since Chinese leaders are not likely to do a turnaround like Gorbachev, and have always refused to kowtow to America and its new world "order".

In an international arena dominated by a handful of powerful states, progressive nations are hard-pressed for ways and means to be heard. Aggravating this is the increasing impotence of multilateral institutions as forums for discussion and conflict resolution.

Accordingly, vigilance against Western ideology and its efforts to subvert stability is very important. Close cooperation between Tehran and Beijing is surely a step in the right direction.

U.S. Concern Over Nuclear Issue 'Hypocritical'

LD0911183391 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—A morning daily here Saturday described the so-called U.S. 'concern' over Iran-China nuclear cooperation as being "at best hypocritical".

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said: "Although Beijing and Tehran have both stressed that their undertakings in this field are for peaceful purposes, Washington simply does not possess the moral weight to unilaterally dictate who can develop a nuclear capability for whatever the ends may be."

The Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it pointed out "are international household words because they were victims of American nuclear arms."

While in the Middle East, said KAYHAN "it has been an open secret for 20 years that the Israelis are possession of deliverable nuclear warheads. Who does not know that the Zionist state's weapons of mass destruction capacity could not have reached the scale it has without generous American support?"

The editorial titled, 'Old Wine in Old Bottles', said that in order to understand the objective behind such an alarm over what Iran and China were doing in the area of nuclear cooperation, one had to look at a bigger picture.

"Both countries, situated respectively at the far east and west extremities of Asia, also happen to be stumbling blocks in the way of the so-called new world order streamroller being driven by Washington," it said.

Iran and China, noted the daily, had been under direct Western pressure for the past 200 years and "in this century, the victorious revolutions waged by the two nations were the severest of blows for the West and especially for Uncle Sam."

It exposed the racial discrimination in America against what has survived of the indigenous 'Indian' population, and against the peoples of African and Hispanic origin, and suggested that countries "so caught in the American policy cross hairs should consider a perfectly respective counterattack, at least in the sphere of human rights.

"The forum for the battle would be United Nations whose Charter calls for, "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination as to race"," said the daily.

South Africa and Iraq provide ample "historical precedent for such an inquiry," it took note, and asked Tehran, Beijing and the Third World to consider such an undertaking.

"In the meantime, Washington should be told that ties between the two states (Iran-China) extend back in time some 10 times the age of the United States of America. Funny how this upstart on the world scene likes to dictate," concluded KAYHAN.

Commentary Assails 'Propaganda' on Nuclear Arms

LD0811131391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0400 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] During the past week, foreign broadcast stations launched a fully coordinated propaganda stunt to claim that Iran was intent on building nuclear weapons and that it had acquired equipment for that purpose from China and/or some other countries.

If we pay attention to the time dimension of such propaganda, we see clearly the reason for the current propaganda, which has been launched purposefully with specific objectives in mind.

The Madrid conference, in which for the first time the Arab governments conducted direct talks with Israel, was sufficiently entertaining and surprising not to leave any room for raising false and diversionary issues. Yet, despite the sensitive nature of conditions, foreign radio stations continued their relentless propaganda against our country. They tried to respond to our country's harsh and revolutionary stance against that conference with sensational and provocative lies.

Meanwhile, the visit to Iran by the PRC president provided a suitable pretext for escalating such propaganda. Therefore, several objectives are behind the project to launch the false claim that Iran is intent on manufacturing nuclear weapons. The first objective is to turn public opinion against Iran's development programs and its plan to utilize nuclear technology in various nonmilitary uses as part of one of the government's aims in the five-year plan. The second objective they pursue is to pressure Sino-Iranian relations, which are gaining strength—a relationship that benefits the two countries—as well as independence-seeking policies in Asia. Finally, the third reason is that our country's revolutionary stances in respone to the Madrid conference are not to the liking of arrogant powers and their propaganda mouthpieces. [passage omitted]

In the wake of international developments, the U.S. Government apparently supports limiting sales of military weapons to the world's countries, especially those in the Middle East. In practice, however, it wants only to control those governments that do not agree with its arrogant policies.

In the Middle East, for instance, Israel is heavily strengthened militarily because it is the center of America's plots, but the situation changes with regard to other countries, especially Iran. The sale of even a single tank to such countries can trigger tremendous propaganda sensationalism. It then can bring about various pressures and economic and military issues.

The feature in THE WASHINGTON POST, which is very close to the White House, can hardly be a coincidence. The publication of that feature demonstrates that the centers of arrogance are allergic; it also shows planned coordination among these centers. The interesting point is that this newspaper claims that the nuclear equipment acquired by Iran can be used only in military ways. The state-controlled British radio, however, says that the equipment can be utilized for civilian purposes as well. [passage omitted] Of course, the British state-controlled radio tries to prove somehow that Iran is bent on producing nuclear weapons, but in the opinion of that broadcasting station, currently it is not yet possible for our country to attain that objective.

While the British radio follows that formula in its propaganda, the Voice of America insists on saying that the issue of Iran wanting and being able to produce nuclear weapons is a serious matter, and it is trying—so it believes—to prevent Iran from doing so. [passage omitted]

To confront this wave of propaganda against Iran which undoubtedly is guided by the Zionists, our officials have denied these organized Western rumors through various means. [passage omitted] Yet, despite repeated denials by Iran and China, foreign radio stations continue to raise ifs and buts. It seems they do not intend to abandon these propaganda stunts, stunts that we do not know what lies behind. [passage omitted]

All these reports we quoted show that serious efforts are under way to bring pressure on Iran. Primarily, they intend to prevent our country from achieving development. They intend to neutralize our national assets and use threats to prevent us from engaging in logical planning. [passage omitted]

While the Bushehr project's fate is held in the balance, the recent propaganda by foreign radio stations shows how shameless world arrogance really is. The correct thing to do is to direct public opinion against Western policies and toward anger over the waste of national assets of world countries. Yet, using propaganda as their weapon, the Westerners completely distort the issue. Claiming to confront warmongering and adventurism, they make a plaything of other nations' interests.

Baghdad Paper: China Supplying Enriched Uranium

JN1011205091 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic
9 Nov 91 pp 1, 7

[Text] The regime of the mullahs is reportedly planning new nuclear arms projects as disclosed today by the Mojahedin-e Khalq. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is said to have tasked Major General Mohsen Reza'i, general commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC], and Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani, the regime's naval chief, with supvervising a special project to fit "Silkworm" missiles with nuclear warheads.

This top secret project is being pursued by a special unit of the IRGC headed by Admiral Navab and IRGC chief 'Abbas Muhtaj, deputy commander of the IRGC naval forces. It should be recalled that the IRGC took charge of all the industries and resources associated with short- and long-range missiles.

In a session chaired by Hashemi-Rafsanjani held at 1530 on 26 October, the National Security Council decided to relocate all the communications systems and military equipment, including "Silkworm" missiles from the Gulf islands of Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra and Abu-Musa, to the northern shores of the Strait of Hormuz so that the military equipment and missiles can be kept outside the range of U.S. AWACS planes.

Pro-Khomeyni sources say that during the deliberations within the circles of the Khomeyni regime, Hashemi-Rafsanjani approached China for the technology to enrich uranium, and for enriched uranium when he met recently with the Chinese president, who was accompanied by his adviser on nuclear affairs. According to regime officials, China promised to supply the requirements for enriching uranium. Part of the technology promised by Chinese nuclear establishments has already been supplied.

Meanwhile, the IRGC is presently developing its programs in the "Ma'alem Kelayah" nuclear facility near

Qazvin (northerwest of Tehran) and in "Darkhovin," one of the headquarters of the IRGC near Iran's southern borders with Iraq in Khuzestan Governorate. Last week, upon completion of the main buildings and installations at the Darkhovin project, a number of Chinese experts and specialists arrived at the camp to install nuclear research equipment.

The pressure recently applied by the regime on France was principally calculated to obtain enriched uranium to help its military projects. The deal concluded in Paris recently should lay the legal groundwork for the regime to obtain enriched uranium.

Commentary on Ways To Challenge U.S. Presence

NC1211121491 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 2 Nov 91 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "From Camp David to Madrid"]

[Excerpts] The arch [in the graph] of the decline of the Arabs, which began at Camp David, has crested with the Madrid conference. The governments, which denounced al-Sadat and banished him from the Arab community, now welcome Israel with open arms. There is no doubt that the Madrid conference cannot resolve the 40-year old Arab-Israeli conflict nor is it being convened to do so. Its sole objective is to legitimize the Israeli presence in the region and to forge Arab-Israeli relations on the axes desired by the United States.

The conference is a step toward shattering psychological barriers to relations and talks with Israel in Arab countries, and to eliminate the taboos surrounding this abominable act. [passage omitted]

Now the United States has contaminated the region with the filth of its presence, becoming the neighbor of the Islamic revolution due to Saddam's major and treacherous error. Because the Islamic ummah have not responded with wrath to America's encroachment on the haven of divine peace, or to its audacity in setting up military bases in the Persian Gulf's Arab countries, the United States is hatching and implementing new plots by surrounding the Islamic Republic of Iran and initiating a new onslaught against this cradle of Islam.

It is appropriate and imperative that a series of political expedients be swiftly adopted to repel this inauspicious aggression. The following measures seem suitable:

1. Establishing a Palestinian Liberation Army comprising the Islamic countries' combatants and strugglers to precision plan combat operations for the liberation of dear Jerusalem and the annihilation of Israel.
2. Worldwide Islamic mobilization to inflict blows on U.S. interests all over the world; to destroy the security of the Americans in the region; and to release the potential of the Islamic ummah, bringing about a revolution and utilizing this concentrated energy to combat reactionaries and world arrogance.
3. The overall strengthening of the intifadah and the Islamic resistance of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, depriving the emigrant Jews of their comforts and defeating the diabolical scheme to move and rehabilitate the Jews in these territories.
4. Multilaterally strengthening and assisting popular movements in the Islamic countries to combat the capitulation and disgrace adopted by reactionary rulers before the United States, and to topple the region's servile, idolatrous regimes.
5. Forging relations with all countries on the basis of the fundamental issue of Palestine, and to adopt suitable stances and reactions to governments which recognize Israel and which are striving to strengthen this bloodthirsty and tyrannical regime. The focal issue in our relations with the Soviet Government and the republics should be this concurrence with the emigration of Jews. If the Soviet Government, solely for the sake of its own material interests, continues its policy of inattention to the lawful rights of Palestinian Muslims, the people of Iran's firm prerogative is to reciprocally concern themselves with their own interests and review their relations with the Soviet Government.
6. Utilizing suitable political and propaganda tactics, a notable example of which are the gains from the Tehran conference, to expose despotic Israel's inhuman visage to the world. Similar measures would be international sessions on the Palestinian issue, playing an effective role in keeping up international public awareness and exposing the satanic policies of world arrogance and despotic Israel.

Indian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

Kashmiri Muslims 'Stumbling Block'

LD0911221591 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—A joint Iran-India commission which is to meet in Tehran tomorrow will strive to speed up the broadening of relations between the two countries. Indian Foreign Minister Madhavsinh Solanki arrived in Tehran tonight heading an economic and politial delegation to Tehran.

During his four-day stay here, Solanki is to confer with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Iran-India ties will be high on the agenda of his talks.

The joint commission of the two countries was to meet annually in Tehran and New Delhi according to an agreement in 1982. However, since 1986, the commission has been held up, slowing down process of relations between the two countries in political, cultural and economic areas. Experts say the principal stumbling block on the way of the joint conference has been the issue of Kashmir. Being committed to Muslims the world over the Islamic Republic has declared unmitigated support for the people in Kashmir and called for a peaceful approach to the problem as well as recognition by the Indian Government of the demands of the Muslims in Kashmir. The position towards the issue seem to have displeased politicians in India and chilled the relations between the two countries.

Another bone of contention between the two countries was a loan granted to New Delhi by the former regime as part of a deal for buying iron ore from India. Political analysts say the issue was responsible for the slow tempo of economic relations between the two. In 1988, however, the issue was solved in the wake of meetings between the two countries' officials in Tehran and New Delhi.

Relations between the two countries is almost as old as history. Since about 1000 A.D. Persian language has been largely spoken in India, which till the machinations of the crafty British in the 19th century, saw the blossimg of Persian poetry and Islamic culutre.

Over the last millenium, tens of thousands of Iranians have emigrated to India for good, and the country now has a Muslim population of about 200 million. The two countries also share other common points of identity since both were once exploited by the world colonialism.

For at least four decades India has been striving to become industrially and economically self-sufficient. Iran, too, during the past decade has tried to make good on years of exploitation and to create her own indigenous industries. The two countries can now cooperate in self-sufficiency projects. They can even help each other in the course of the new world order which is being imposed on the Third World. The two have very close outlooks on how and why to strengthen the non-aligned movement. In addition their cooperation on various fields during the Persian Gulf war is evidence of the existence of sufficient grounds on which to build up better regional and international cooperation in the future.

The Indian statesmen have frequently intimated their interest for cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran as an independent and leading country in the region. In a recent meeting in New Delhi with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin Boroujerdi the Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao voiced his interest in broadening of relations.

One-time Prime Minister of India Chandra Shekhar in a meeting with the presidential envoy to New Delhi Ataollah Mohajerani last June, voiced his willingness to further the Iran-India relations by casting aside minor issues of past discrepancies.

President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, too, in a message to Rao, upon his coming to office some months ago, congratulated him.

India is interested to have a share in reconstruction projects in Iran. The Indian trade minister visited Tehran within the same context last year at the head of a 50-man team of public and private sector industrialists. It also looks forward to a continuous flow of oil and gas from the Islamic Republic for its internal consumption, and has agreements for purchase of same from Iran.

At a time when the world is heading forward to unipolarity the developing countries cannot do better than strike a mutual understanidng between themselves and cooperate among themselves for common goals.

Political analysts, in sum, expect that the arrival in Tehran of the Indian foreign minister and his delegation which will mark also the meeting of the joint Iran-India commission in Tehran, will be a long stride towards closer relations between the two countries in political, economic and cultural areas.

Urges Expanded Trade Relations

BK1011131091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, has said that a new vitality should be injected into the Indo-Iranian relationship through specific measures. This can be done by considerable enhancement of bilateral trade and cooperation in the field of industry. Mr. Solanki was speaking at the opening of the fifth meet of the Indo-Iran Joint Commission in Tehran today. He said India is ready to increase its offtake of the Iranian crude oil but wants Iran also to increase its imports from India.

The Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, while inaugurating the meeting, said that both the countries are fully determined to consolidate and expand relations in all fields.

Chairs Commission With Velayati

LD1011121191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] A meeting of the Iranian-Indian joint committee was held today and was chaired by the two countries' foreign ministers. At the beginning of the session, Mr. Velayati stated that the decisive role of Iran and India in the Nonaligned Movement and the common aspects between the two countries in many international issues to be the main element for the realization of opportunities for cooperation between the two countries. The setting up of the fifth joint committee is for this very purpose.

He said: The new development in power-bloc formation has meant illegal military and economic power to be utilized as an agent of coercion and enticement [tatmi']; glaring examples of which are the so-called Middle East peace conference, the suppression of the innocent nation of Palestine, as well as the military presence of the big powers in countries and international waterways such as the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean—all with domination seeking objectives. He added: These factors cause mutual thinking and cooperation between regional states to establish security to solidify more than ever in various fields.

Mr. Solanki, the Indian foreign minister, who is visiting our country, met and conferred with Mr. Velayati, the foreign affairs minister, this morning before the holding of the two countries' joint economic commission.

During that meeting, the Indian foreign minister expressed willingness to broaden the two countries' relations and expressed hope that the policies adopted by the new government of India concerning protection of religious places bring satisfaction to the people of India.

Mr. Velayati also referred to the situation of Muslims in India, saying: We are deeply concerned about the fate of the people of Kashmir and what is happening in your country concerning the Babri Mosque. We hope to see new efforts being made toward resolving of the problem of Muslims in India through adoption of new policies by Mr. Rao's government.

Kashmir Viewed as 'Internal Matter'

BK1111131491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Iran considers the Kashmir issue an internal matter of India and is firmly against internationalizing it. This was stated categorically by the Iranian president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and the foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, during their talks in Tehran with the visiting Indian external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki. Mr. Solanki handed over a message of goodwill from the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, for the Iranian president and apprised him of the economic reforms introduced by India.

President on Resolving Dispute

LD1111112591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Before noon today President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. Solanki, the Indian foreign minister, who has come to Iran to participate in the fifth session of the Iran-India joint commission. In the meeting, in which Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister was also present, the Indian foreign minister declared his government's readiness to cooperate with Iran to the fullest extent in economic, research, technological, and technical fields, as well as in scientific development. He added that the Indian Government will do its utmost to realize the rights of that country's Muslims.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in turn stressed the need for India's cooperation with Muslim countries, and expressed the hope that the Indian Government's recent initatives to support the rights of the minorities in that country will continue, so that Muslims may feel secure, alongside other people in India.

Turning to global and regional developments, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Times and conditions warrant further cooperation between countries, like Iran and India. Fortunately, in Asia and in particular in our region, there are numerous grounds for cooperation between independent countries. Stressing the need for vigilance in the regional countries vis-a-vis enemy exploitation of the differences between these countries, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to make great efforts to resolve the differences between India and Pakistan.

Concluding his remarks, the president welcomed the expansion of political, economic, technical, and scientific ties with India, and underlined the need to continue such ties.

Also in the meeting, the Indian foreign minister extended an invitation from Mr. Rao, the Indian prime minister, to the president to visit to India.

Memorandums of Understanding Signed

LD1111222491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] With the four-day visit of Mr. Solanki, the Indian foreign minister, a new door has opened in the relations between our two countries. According to agreements reached between the Iranian and Indian Governments and on the basis of talks held between the two countries' authorities at the fifth joint committee, which resulted in the Iranian and Indian foreign ministers' signing five memoranda of understanding on Monday—in addition to the expansion of diplomatic ties and regional cooperation—trade between the two countries will be considerably increased.

The memorandums of understanding also emphasize the transfer of technical expertise, the increase in industrial goods' trade, joint investments coupled with the possibility of exporting manufactured goods in third party markets, more extensive cooperation in industrial projects, and exchanges of commercial delegations.

According to our correspondent, a memorandum of understanding was signed on cultural, scientific, and technical exchanges between the two countries for 1991-1994. Considering the need for increasing communications between the two countries, it was agreed that the granting of visas for each other's citizens should be made easier.

According to Foreign Minister Velayati, Mr. Solanki's visit to Tehran has paved the way for further cooperation between the two countries. The method of India's cooperation in our country's reconstruction was clarified at the talks held at the fifth joint committee and the implementation of some projects by Indian experts was agreed on.

Tonight, at the end of the last round of talks, our foreign minister announced: Within a month, Indian delegations will come here to follow up the issues discussed between the two countries and, as two important Asian countries, Iran and India will from now on cooperate more fully with each other on regional and global issues.

The Indian foreign minister, who is chairman of the joint committee of the two countries, described the outcome of his trip to Tehran as satisfactory. He expressed the hope that cooperation between Iran and India would reach the highest level in all fields.

Concludes Visit, Departs 12 Nov

LD1211103891 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA—Visiting Indian Foreign Minister Madhavsinh Solanki left Tehran Tuesday morning at the end of a four-day official visit and attending the 5th session of joint economic commission. Solanki, who arrived here at the head of an economic-political delegation last Saturday, was seen off at the airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

While here, Solanki held talks with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Velayati and discussed Tehran-New Delhi relations and mutual cooperation.

Commentary Reviews Visit

LD1011140191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The Indian foreign minister arrived in Tehran at the head of a political-economic delegation to participate in the fifth Iran-India joint commission and meet the officials of our country. The joint commission of the two countries, whose meeting was delayed for various reasons from 1366 [year starting 21 March 1987], will be formed in Tehran and chaired by the foreign ministers of the two countries during this visit. [passage omitted]

Upon the Indian foreign minister's arrival in Tehran, Dr. Velayati, the foreign minister, remarked: Current relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and India, in line with Mr. Rao's cabinet, have been excellent, especially as the Indian Government recently stressed the need to maintain the Babri Mosque, a demand of over 100 million Muslims of that country and other Muslims in the world. Hence, political observers believe that the Indian Government's position regarding the Babri Mosque can be a suitable ground for the expansion of relations between New Delhi and Islamic countries, particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Because discussion on security and the future of the Persian Gulf region and the Indian Ocean seems necessary, noting the world developments and Iranian-Indian common views, great importance is attached to the current negotiations between the foreign ministers of the two countries. Meanwhile, the positions of Iran and India—two large countries of the Third World who believe that the Persian Gulf region and the Indian Ocean must be recognized as zones of peace and stability, and free from nuclear weapons—point to shared positions on recent international developments.

During the Chinese president's trip to Iran and Pakistan, American media spread misleading propaganda. Political experts believe that its main objective was to cause a rift in relations between Tehran and New Delhi. Therefore, the Indian foreign minister's trip to Iran gives the Rao government the opportunity to realize the fact that the closeness of Beijing, Tehran, and Islamabad will not have a negative impact on the good relations between the two countries.

Noting her many internal difficulties, India is intent on a some kind of economic and political reconstruction in regional and world relations, especially after seeing the developments in the Soviet Union. Therefore, in its economic reforms, that country can utilize the immense potential of our country as well as the economic and mineral resources. On the other hand, noting that the foreign policy of our country relies on the expansion of relations with Third World and independent countries, India—as a nonaligned state whose people share many common experiences with our people, especially regarding the outstanding struggles of the two peoples—can cooperate extensively with Iran in many fields. India, with a population of over 800 million people, has immense potential for joint cooperation, especially in the economy. It can participate in the reconstruction of our country by sending some of its considerable manpower.

In any case, the Indian foreign minister's trip to Iran is a suitable opportunity for the two countries to once again reexamine mutual relations. This can can lead to the expansion of Tehran-New Delhi ties, especially with regard to the recent developments in the Persian Gulf region and the Indian Subcontinent.

Report, Comment on Seized Ship, Turkish Ties

Habibi Holds News Conference

LD1111102591 Tehran IRNA in English 0831 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 11, IRNA—First Vice-President and government spokesman Hasan Habibi on Monday expressed hope that the new Turkish Government will settle the issue of the Iranian leased vessel in a manner that will not jeopardize Tehran-Ankara relations. Speaking in his weekly conference, Habibi told reporters that the seizure of the Iran-bound vessel 'Cape Maleas' by Turkey last month may have been motivated by the Turkish Government in order to put the newly-elected administration in a difficult position. The move may have also been the work of those who wish to create problems for the new Turkish Government in her relations with neighbouring Iran, he added.

On the forthcoming 7th ministerial meeting of the Group 77 scheduled in Tehran November 16-23, Habibi said that Iran will use the opportunity to hold talks with member countries to promote bilateral economic relations and establishment of [an] Asian Islamic common market.

Commenting on the current visit to Iran of the United Nations team to assess and estimate the damage sustained by Iran during the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war, he said the team is commissioned to compile a detailed report on the damage caused, the reconstruction programs carried out so far, the money spent and the areas which have not yet been rebuilt. Habibi said the United Nations must make the aggressor pay Iran war reparations. To this end instructions have been sent to various government bodies to provide the United Nations team with the necessary facts and figures in coordination with Plan and Budget Organization.

Envoy on Efforts To Release Ship

LD1211203791 Tehran IRNA in English 1854 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Ankara, Nov. 12, IRNA—Iran has offered the most substantiated documents to the Turkish Government on the ownership of cargo aboard the Cypriot-registered ship Cape Maleas seized by Turkey, as gesture of its "utmost goodwill", Iran's Ambassador to Turkey Mohammad Reza Baqeri said here today.

Speaking to IRNA before his departure to Tehran, Baqeri said that in an effort to prevent the straining of Tehran-Ankara relations, he had offered legally substantiated documents to the Turkish acting foreign minister Vahbi Dinceler Monday night, and asked for the "immediate and unconditional" release of the vessel and its cargo.

Hoping that his explanations and repeated meetings with Turkish officials would bear fruit, Baqeri said Dinceler had promised to convey the documents to the related authorities quickly.

Turkey seized Cape Maleas while it was in transit through the Bosphorus Strait on October 22, claiming that the vessel was smuggling weapons.

The Turkish media have have ever since indulged in provocative and absurd reports over the issue, the last of which alleged that the ship was also carrying raw material for producing heroin. However, detailed inspections showed that the fluid aboard the ship is used in explosives, which reports had little reflection in the Turkish media.

Local officials in Istanbul informed the Iranian Consulate that they would release the vessel if Iran officially declares that it owns the cargo. The Iranian Consulate contacted related authorities immediately the next day (23 October) stating that the cargo belonged to the Islamic Republic, but the same evening a Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman claimed that no country has assumed ownership of the cargo, and that Cape Maleas was probably carrying weapons for terrorist groups.

The Iranian ambassador's visit to the Turkish Foreign Ministry and the official declaration of the ownership of the cargo was widely covered by the Turkish press; however, Ankara refused to release the vessel.

As part of Iran's goodwill efforts senior official 'Alireza Mo'ayyeri flew to Ankara with a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his Turkish counterpart Turgut Ozal concerning the immediate and unconditional release of the ship.

An Iranian delegate who accompanied Mo'ayyeri to the meeting with Ozal quoted the Turkish president as saying that the issue had no legal aspects. Regretting that the incident occured "under psychologically acute circumstances in Turkey" at a time of clashes between government troops and Kurdish dissidents, and pressures of the Cyprus issue, Ozal promised Mo'ayyeri to take necessary measures in this regard.

But nothing concrete came and on the contrary the issue became more complicated, with the Turkish state prosecutor saying that the ship's cargo had been confiscated temporarily and the vessel had been transferred to another place for her cargo to be inventoried. Following the protest of the Greek captain of the ship, the prosecutor even ordered his arrest, and called for 24 years of imprisonment for him.

Meanwhile, the Turkish press still continues to attribute news to the ship's captain.

Ambassador Recalled for Consultations

NC1311130291 Paris AFP in English 1234 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov 13 (AFP)—Ties between Tehran and Ankara have been threatened in a lingering diplomatic standoff sparked by Turkey's seizure last month in the Bosporus of a Cypriot cargo vessel chartered by Iran.

On Monday, Iran's ambassador to Turkey Mohammad Reza Baqeri returned to Tehran for "consultations," an informed source disclosed here Wednesday. The envoy said in a press statement that Iran had called for the release of the cargo from the 7,200-ton Cape Maleas to avert any further deterioration in relations. The ship was carrying guns and chemicals for the production of both explosives and heroin.

Baqeri said he had presented "irrefutable documents to Turkish authorities" on Iran's ownership of the cargo and had made every effort to secure the ship's release. By submitting the documents, Iranian officials felt they were demonstrating their good will.

The vessel was seized by Turkish coast guards October 22 because of its cargo of weapons as it entered the Bosporus from the Bulgarian port of Burgas. Turkish authorities said the transport of the arms through the country's Dardanelles Straits and the Bosporus required special authorization and cargo documents specifying that the ship carried industrial products.

Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani sent his international affairs adviser, 'Ali Reza Mo'ayyeri, to meet with Turkish President Turgut Ozal earlier this month to ask that the ship be set free and the affair settled.

The state security court in Istanbul ordered the seizure of the cargo and its skipper's arrest as the special Iranian envoy was arriving in Ankara. Iranian officials and media have repeatedly charged Turkey with hostility towards Iran in the affair.

Hasan Habibi, Iran's first vice president and government spokesman, said Monday that Tehran expected Turkish officials to settle the matter in a manner that would not harm bilateral relations.

Iran's senior law enforcement authority, Mohammad Yazdi, has insisted that the ship's seizure "violated international law and regulations" and urged Turkish authorities to reconsider their decision.

The Iranian press has since criticized Turkish officials, accusing them of "wanting to exploit the slightest occasion to attack and annoy the Islamic republic." Hardline papers, without giving details, hinted that Iran could retaliate if the vessel were not freed as soon as possible.

Daily Warns of Damage to Relations

LD1011114791 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—The Islamic Republic has to realize that a period of instability and uncertainty has set in the aftermath of the recent parliamentary elections in Turkey, said 'TEHRAN TIMES' Sunday.

Referring to Iran's policy of peaceful coexistence with her neighbors, the daily's editorial wrote that Tehran experiences difficulties with those neighbors who are overly influenced by the U.S. foreign policy.

It said that with Turkey, the Islamic Republic has generally had tenable relations except when Tehran's stance against the U.S. leads to adverse propaganda atmosphere against Iran in many parts of the world including Turkey.

The recent seizure of the Iran-bound vessel 'The Cape Maleas' by Turkey is no doubt another link in the chain of conspiracy designed to create problems for Iran in its relations with different countries, the paper believed adding "the confiscation of the ship is threatening to turn into a political crisis."

"The Islamic Republic, which has become the nucleus of resistance against the presence of the U.S. military force in the Persian Gulf, and the center of opposition to Washington's plans for the settlement of the Palestinian issue in favor of the Zionist regime, has nevertheless to come to terms with certain political realities."

"Among such political considerations," the editorial concluded, "in the years to come, is a period of instability ad uncertainty which, in the opinion of political observers, has set in as the outcome of the recent parliamentary elections in Turkey."

Turkey Called 'Problem Neighbor'

LD1011194391 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—The Persian daily KAYHAN said in a commentary Sunday that Turkey is a problem neighbor to her neighbor countries because of her frequently unwarranted challenges to them. It said in her relations with Iran Ankara has always acted as "the threatening tongue of the West."

The daily's commentary referred to the seizure of an Iranian ship by the Turkish Government in the Bosphorus Strait earlier in the month noting that the act was in violation of the 1936-Montreux convention which prevents Turkey from intercepting ships or inspecting their cargo in the Bosphorus.

KAYHAN said: "Turkey now is struck by a big political illusion, namely that she can solve her problems at home and win a more favorable status in the circle of the Western nations by engaging in such behavior as the seizure of the Iranian vessel."

The commentary said the roots of Turkey's problems should be sought in the unpopular and undemocratic (political) structure of the country. It added that Turkey's neighbors, namely Syria, Iraq, Iran, Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria, and the Soviet Union have somehow suffered the "unrealistic and hostile claims of Ankara against themselves."

The commentary noted, however, that the ups and downs in the relations between Iran and Turkey over the past decade offers Iran "more foresight and maturity than it previously had in her dealings with Ankara's unprincipled behavior."

'Negative Consequences' Envisioned

LD1211151791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With the passing of several weeks since Turkey's illegal confiscation of a ship carrying cargo for Iran, it remains unclear how the problems arising from the incident are being dealt with. [passage omitted]

No specific legal reason has been given thus far by official Turkish authorities as to why the ship and its cargo were seized, even though during this time Iran has undertaken extensive efforts, both through the courts and diplomatic channels, to resolve the ship's confiscation. Nonetheless, the situation remains as before.

The confiscation of the ship leased by Iran has a negative impact on the good-neighborly relations between Iran and Turkey, and if the current situation persists, negative consequences on bilateral relations will not be unexpected.

Iran and Turkey have, especially in the past decade, laid the foundation for extensive commercial, tourist, financial, and economic ties. Even though during this time problems have arisen in Tehran-Ankara relations on occasion, nevertheless, with goodwill on both sides, the problems have been peacefully resolved.

Problems of the kind occurring in Iran-Turkey relations are no worse than can be expected in the relations between two big countries. A positive approach combined with goodwill on the part of the Turkish Government is, therefore, the necessary factor to ensure good relations and constructive developments in relations.

Iran and Turkey, along with Pakistan, are working toward stronger political, cultural, and economic ties within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO]. Thus, any disturbance caused in bilateral relations between these countries will also affect the ECO's fate.

Of course, the Turkish Government's inaction over resolving the confiscation of the ship leased by Iran may be viewed in the light of internal developments within Turkey after its national elections. In his news conference yesterday, Dr. Habibi, the first vice-president, gave the following assessment of the possible aims behind the confiscation of the ship. He said that the action may have been undertaken by the former Turkish Government, which was defeated in the elections, with the aim of causing problems for the new government. Or it may have been done by groups who wanted to cause problems for the new government in its relations with a neighboring country, while at the same time attributing evil intentions to the former government. [passage omitted]

In any case, regardless of the internal developments in Turkey, it is incumbent on the government of that country to deal satisfactorily with the resulting problems arising from the confiscation of the ship to prevent negative consequences; otherwise, responsibility will lie directly with the Turkish Government.

Repercussions of Turkish Elections

NC1311093191 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 Oct 91 p 13

[Unattributed commentary: "The Turkish 'True Path' Party in the Crucible of a Test"]

[Text] The defeat of Ozal's party in the Turkish parliamentary elections has brought Turkey to the brink of new developments. For a while there were differences between the ruling party and other parties on changes in Turkey's constitution. Earlier elections were scheduled and were eventually held a few days ago.

The ruling party's defeat was quite foreseeable, even predicted by many.

Known as the Motherland Party, the ruling party faced two major problems from the outset, which eventually caused its downfall. Increasing Islamic leanings, inflation mounting daily, and severe economic problems were the main factors responsible for Ozal's party defeat, indicating that the people did not welcome Ozal's policies. After eight years they turned their back on his party, wishing to experiment with others.

Ozal tried his utmost to project his policies as the reasons for the country's success, often stating that Turkey is far more advanced than its neighbors, although the vote count clearly shows the people are apprehensive about the current situation.

In Turkey inflation is now fast reaching three digits, and this is extremely dangerous for the ailing Turkish economy.

From the outset Ozal always tried to elicit the people's confidence with slogans proclaiming economic improvement, but the people, disenchanted with economic problems, pulled the rug of power from under the Motherland Party's feet.

Turkish Muslims have suffered for years because of a secular system that made it easier for other parties to get their attention. Ozal and others' participation in Friday prayers congregations itself reveals the people's mounting Islamic leanings.

The people expected that with Ozal's party in power it would pay attention to their religious inclinations, but it did not. Even now the issue of female students wearing Islamic dress remains unresolved.

The extremely cordial relations between Turkey and the Zionist regime and support for U.S. policies in the region is heightening popular opposition to the ruling party.

The dazzling increase in votes for the Welfare Party led by Necmettin Erbakan, known for his Islamic bent, also indicates the people's opposition to secular policies and their leanings toward Islamic trends.

Parties in opposition to the Motherland party, especially the True Path Party led by Suleyman Demirel, capitalized on this, formulating an attractive program to lure votes. The True Path Party's slogan centers on economic problems, promising "a house and an automobile for each family."

Although the ailing Turkish economy will not be able to shrug off its difficulties so swiftly, the True Path Party has capitalized on the Motherland party's weakness in resolving the people's problems, preparing to enter the arena in which victory had seemed quite improbable.

The True Path Party's leaders paid attention to economic and religious problems, attempting to get closer to the mosques. Just as they did for the Motherland Party, time and performance will prove the True Path Party's success in achieving its slogans.

The True Path Party is now in the testing crucible, and if it acts according to the people's wishes and at least restricts the policies favored by the powers of world arrogance, it can hope to continue in power. If it moves against the people's wishes, especially by ignoring their Islamic leanings, it will definitely meet the same fate as the Motherland Party.

Ayatollah Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0811125791 Tehran IRNA in English 1214 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—Head of the judiciary branch Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said here today that the decisions of the Madrid conference, whatever they may be, are invlaid since the occupied Palestine belongs only to the Palestinians and to none else. [sentence as received]

Speaking to a large assembly of worshippers at the compounds of Tehran University, Yazdi called on the Arab governments to declare the talks as a cancelled issue since the behavior of the Zionist regime in the talks had been extremely inappropriate. He said the only goal of the organizers of the conference was to recognize the Zionist regime.

In his sermons at the Friday congregational prayers the Ayatollah also adverted [as received] to the seizure at the Bosphorus Strait of an Iranian chartered vessel by Turkey last month and said it outrages the ruling laws in the strait. He added that such developments will be detrimental to Iran-Turkey relations.

Ayatollah Yazdi expressed hope that during the remaining period of his office the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar would be able to go further ahead with the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 on Iraq-Iran war, and carry out the dictates of a number of its articles.

Elswhere he adverted to the "education week" now being observed nationwide and called on youngsters as well as educators to take inspiration from divine orders and from the guildelines of the leader of the Islamic republic, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, in their progress to better education.

In a pre-sermon speech to worshippers here member of the experts assembly Hojjat ol-Eslam Mojtahed Shabestari echoed the position of the Islamic republic on the issue of Palestine and the Madrid conference, reminding that no one person or group of persons should reasonably be admitted to make a decision for and on behalf of the people of Palestine by reason of their political status. He said the issue is the concern of 1.2 billion Muslims the world over and that the solution to the issue will have to be upheld by the entirety of the world Muslims.

Notes Palestine Issue, Turkish Ties

LD0811182391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1212 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Yazdi at Tehran University on 8 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The next issue concerns the Madrid conference. We all heard the news about this affair, the issues raised during the formal and opening sessions, particularly by the United States and Israel. We all know about the headstrong and angry Israeli stance. We know about the bilateral and tripartite negotiations with the Israeli delegation and the so-called Palestinian delegation and Jordan, or Lebanon, or Syria. They have not said anything. They talked for six hours to see where they are going to continue the negotiations—in the Middle East, in Washington, or somewhere else. There are other issues, but they talk only about this one. Nothing has been said about the bilateral or tripartite talks that says anything new. One can only guess.

I will raise only this question and then put the discussion aside: Do those Arab countries who have satisfied themselves and have participated in that conference still believe that peace, or land for peace, is possible? Israel openly said withdrawal from the occupied lands will put its security at risk. Israel recently said it has plans for southern Lebanon, and they are being implementing. You heard about the violent, intense attack last night. Even a kindergarten was attacked and immaculate oppressed children were killed. This crime occurred side by side with other crimes.

Even in the Golan Heights, while they are talking about this with the Syrians, new Jewish settlements are being established. You can see that they are continuing to transfer Jews, especially from the Soviet Union. Do those who participated still hope, do they imagine that there may be some sort of peace, or that land will be exchanged for peace? [passage omitted]

The Israelis are pursuing their main objectives: the consolidation and official recognition of Israel, domination of the region, provision of their interests, and blocking the expansion and growth of Islam. These are the main aims of the United States, Israel, and those who follow them. [passage omitted]

Fortunately, these days we witness strikes, demonstrations, and encounters launched by Muslims, especially the Palestinian combatants who have intensified their combat operations. When one hears that a 16-year-old girl attacks Zionist troops with a firebomb, then one remembers the saga of our own youth during the imposed war with Iraq. But these combatants have nothing else to fight with except firebombs, although their resolve to acquire their own rights has been strengthened these days. That is the truth.

History shows that it is only the people of Palestine and the residents of the occupied territories who can determine their ultimate fate. Therefore, it is not possible to decide on the rights of the people by gathering round a table and engaging in small talk. [crowd chants slogans]

The state security attorney general in Istanbul [title as heard] has declared that the verdict by that city's court on the provisional impounding of the Islamic Republic's vessel [as heard] and the arrest of the captain of that ship was final, which means there can be no appeal.

I submit that first, this action contravened the international agreement of Montreux, and second, it is possible to appeal the verdict. This platform is not a place to engage in a legal discourse, but I am hopeful that Turkish officials will resolve the problem as soon as possible, especially now that they have received the message from the honorable president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was sent to Mr. Ozal and he has answered. Hopefully, they will resolve the problem soon and refrain from pushing it into other kinds of legal mazes, which naturally, would have a negative impact on the countries' relations.

As for the UN team that is here to begin its work tomorrow regarding Article 8 of UN Security Council Resolution 598, we hope they do a good job. I add that Mr. Perez de Cuellar, the secretary general, fully performs his duties in implementing all the articles of the resolution during the remainder of his term. [passage omitted]

Border With Turkmenistan To Open for Trade

LD0911185191 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Now Shahr (Mazandaran), Nov. 9, IRNA—The 'Marzpol' border point in 'Incheh Boroun' region, 70 kms north of Gonbad town will be formally opened on November 22 to border dwellers for trade between Mazandaran Province and the Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan.

Mazandaran Governor-General Mr. Mofidi told IRNA last night that according to a recent agreement, people on either side of the border, in possession of the required entry permit, can travel to the other country and engage in trade within a radius not exceeding 45 kms.

A transit lounge, a border post for law enforcement forces, rest houses and other facilities for cross-border travellers have been cosntructed in Marzpol, he said.

A similar arrangement for cross border-travel was made earlier between the Iranian provinces of West and East Azerbaijan and the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan on the western side of the Caspian Sea.

Present day Turkmenistan, bordered by the Caspian on the east and the River Oxus on the north, is made up of historical Khwarezm and Greater Khorasan—areas rich in Islamic heritage, which along with Transoxiana played an important role in the development of Persian poetry and literature.

Agricultural Protocol Signed

LD1211091591 Tehran IRNA in English 0744 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Bajgiran, Khorasan Prov., Nov. 12, IRNA—A protocol on exchange of agricultural experts was signed in this border region between Iran and the Soviet Turkmenistan Republic Tuesday. According to the protocol, inked during the third round of border talks between Khorasan and Turkmenistan authorities, 15 agricultural experts from the neighbouring Soviet republic are to arrive in this northeastern province to inspect the provincial sugar beet farmlands and sugar factories.

The protocol also envisages formation of a transportation company to operate between the provincial capital of Mashhad and the republican capital of Ashkabad, reopening of 'Lotfabad' and 'Sarakhs' border points, exchange of tourists and immediate opening of consulates in Mashhad and Ashkabad.

The two sides also agreed on border crossings in Bajgiran as of next week. Turkmenistan is also to deliver agricultural machineries to Khorasan Province in exchange for apples.

Bodies of Iraqi Soldiers Handed Over

LD1111180591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] After gaining access to the latest information on the identification of the fate of the Iranian MIA's [missing in action] in Iraq, at midday today, the corpses of a number of Iraqi soldiers killed during the imposed war, after identification, were unilaterally handed over to the Iraqi officials across the border at Khosravi for humanitarian reasons.

The official in charge of the war devotees' affairs and the committee set up at the commander in chief's headquarters to pursue the fate of those MIA's reported this to the Central News Unit and added: This action brings hope that we will gain access to the MIA's currently in Iraq. He stressed that if Iraq cooperates with the Islamic Republic of Iran, this action will have positive results.

It is worth mentioning that the Iranian and Iraqi delegations are still continuing their talks on this issue.

Kharrazi Says Tehran To Release Iraqi POW's

LD1211075991 Tehran IRNA in English 0649 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, Nov. 12, IRNA—Iran's UN envoy Kamal Kharrazi told the UN chief here Monday that Tehran is ready to set free all the remaining Iraqi war prisoners provided that Baghdad reciprocates the move and releases all Iranian war prisoners.

Speaking to IRNA after the meeting with Javier Perez de Cuellar, Kharrazi said Tehran has provided Baghdad with a list of names of 5,000 Iranian prisoners who, according to reliable informations, are still held in Iraq.

According to Kharrazi, Perez de Cuellar reiterated his determination to carry out the unimplemented articles of the UN Security Council Resolution 598 on Iraq-Iran war before his term of office in the UN ends next month.

Articles dealing with naming the initiator of the war and estimating the war damage have not been fully carried out. Tehran submitted an authentic report to Perez de Cuellar last month proving that Iraq had committed aggression against Iran on which the UN chief is currently working, the Iranian envoy said.

Kharrazi said that he thanked Perez de Cuellar for his efforts to implement the Article Seven of the resolution and for dispatching his special envoy Abdulkarim Farah to Tehran for the second time to estimate the war damage.

Over 400 Iraqis To Be Returned

LD1211112191 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran is to hand over 400 Iraqi military personnel who had sought asylum in Iran as a neutral country during the Persian Gulf war which ended in February 1991. Head of the commission in charge of the prisoners of war (POWs) Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran disclosing the above said that the Iraqis will be handed over to the Iraqi officials this week.

Nazaran further told IRNA that during the past two months Iran has returned 200 Iraqi servicemen, including officers and non- commissioned officers. He said that the majority of the Iraqis who sought asylum in Iran are officers and non-commissioned officers.

According to Nazaran thousands of Iraqi military personnel sought asylum in Iran during the Persian Gulf war who were accepted as guests of the Islamic Republic and given humanitarian treatment. With the exception of those who wish to remain Iran, the rest of the refugees will be released and handed over to the Iraqi officials gradually.

Iraq Still Holds 5,000 POW's

LD1311111991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The Iraqi regime has claimed that it does not hold any Iranian prisoners [as heard].

A press statement released by the representative legation of the Iraqi regime at the UN Secretariat yesterday alleges that under the supervision of the International Red Cross, Iraq freed and repatriated all the Iranian prisoners and that no Iranian prisoner is being held in Iraq.

The Islamic Republic of Iran presented valid documents that prove that 5,000 Iranian combatants are still being held prisoner in Iraq. Among these documents are letters from these combatants to their families as well as the information given by their freed colleagues.

Iran also demands that Iraq should clarify the fate of more than 45,000 Iranian fighters [delavar], who have been missing in action. The Iraqi Government is duty bound to present clear evidence with regard to all of these people according to the Geneva convention.

Over 1 Million Iraqi Refugees Return to Iraq

LD1211201391 Tehran IRNA in English 1518 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Shiraz, Nov. 12, IRNA—About 1.05 million Iraqi refugees who had fled to Iran from Iraq during the Persian Gulf war, have returned home by now, said Ahmad Hoseyni, director-general for refugees and foreign nationals at the Interior Ministry Tuesday. "There are still 150,000 Iraqi refugees residing in West Azarbaijan, Bakhtaran, Kurdestan, Khuzestan and Lorestan Provinces," Hoseyni told reporters.

Nearly four million foreign nationals including three million Afghans are living in Iran of whom 430,000 have been accommodated in 76 guest houses throughout the country, he said.

For the first time, he said, a high powered Iranian delegation attended the annual session of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] in Geneva early last month. "The most important achievement of the session was the UNHCR's admission of the fact that there are four million refugees living in Iran and not less than three million as mentioned in the previous documents of the organization," he said. Therefore, the official pointed out, international bodies have admitted that one-fourth of the total population of refugees in the world live in Iran.

During the Persian Gulf conflict, he said, a total of 67,000 tons of relief aid was sent to Iran for Iraqi refugees which was in fact one-fifth of the assistance given to the refugees.

Qatari Crown Prince Arrives for Official Visit

LD0711104391 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov. 7, IRNA—Crown Prince of Qatar Shaykh Bin-Hamad Khalifah Al Thani departed for Tehran this morning for a four-day official visit at the invitation of First Vice-president Hassan Habibi.

While in Tehran, the Qatari crown prince who is also defence minister and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, will discuss latest developments in the region and explore avenues for further expansion and consolidation of ties between the two countries.

Political sources in the region attach great importance to the visit and describe it as a turning point in the trend of the expansion of Tehran's ties with members of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council.

The Qatari crown prince and his high-ranking military, political, economic and cultural delegation will sign four important protocols in Tehran mainly in cultural, air and sea transportation as well as economic and trade cooperation fields.

Bilateral economic cooperation will also include joint venture in industrial projects as well as increase in the volume of trade transactions.

The Qatari crown prince would also hold talks with Iranian officials on the transfer of Iran's fresh water to Qatar, preliminary talks for which started two months ago.

According to the project, Karun River water in southern Iran would be transferred to Doha through four 16-25 inch 1800-km long pipelines.

The Qatari crown prince and his entourage would then leave Tehran on a three-day official visit to Islamabad next Sunday. [Tehran IRNA in English at 0851 GMT on 7 November reports that Qatari Crown Prince Shaykh Bin-Hamad Khalifah Al Thani arrived in Tehran this morning for a four-day official visit.

IRNA goes on to report: "The Qatari crown prince and his entourage were welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport by First Vice-President Hassan Habibi.

"Upon arrival Crown Prince Shaykh Bin-Hamad told reporters that he would hold talks with Iranian officials on matters of mutual and regional interest.

"He said he would also convey the 'warm greetings' of the Qatari head of state to the officials of the friendly Islamic Republic of Iran.

"Meanwhile, Habibi said that the objective of the visit was to hold talks on expansion of bilateral economic, technical and cultural ties.

"During his stay, Crown Prince Shaykh Bin-Hamad would meet and confer with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Habibi and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

"The Qatari crown prince is accompanied by ministers of foreign affairs, education, transportation, labor and agriculture.

"The delegation is to leave Tehran for Nowshahr in the Caspian region Friday to inspect the marine college there."]

Meets With Vice President Habibi

LD0811133291 Tehran IRNA in English 1144 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—International and regional issues as well as bilateral relations between Iran and Qatar were discussed in the first round of talks between First Vice-President Hasan Habibi and Crown Prince Shaykh Bin-Hamad Khalifah Al Thani, here Thursday.

Underlining the Islamic Republic of Iran's might as a powerful country in the region, the Qatari crown prince said the aim of his visit was to promote ties with Iran in various areas.

Habibi also believed that consolidation of relations between Islamic states would strengthen their position and check the presence of foreigners in the region.

Pointing to the U.S.-sponsored Middle East "peace" conference in Madrid, Habibi said the foreigners would not so impudently overlook the rights of the Muslims, particularly of the Palestinians, if the Muslim states were united.

The two sides also stressed that the negotiations held between the officials of the two countries in the past, should bear fruit during this round of talks.

In another development, Al Thani and the high-ranking delegation accompanying him, arrived in the Caspian Sea town of Noshahr this morning and were greeted at the airport by the governor general of Mazandaran Province and a number of other local officials.

During its one day stay in Noshahr, the Qatari delegation will inspect, among other things, the Army's Marine higher education complex.

The minister of defense and armed forces logistics Akbar Torkan is also accompanying the Qatari crown prince to Noshahr.

Al Thani arrived here Thursday on a 4-day official visit at the invitation of Habibi.

The delegation accompanying him include political, military, economic and cultural officials and it is expected that important protocols be signed between the two countries during the visit.

Confers With Velayati

LD0911113491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] During a banquet last night in honor of Shaykh Bin-Hamad Khalifah Al Thani, the crown prince of Qatar, and his accompanying delegation, the first vice president, Mr. Habibi said: Unity under the banner of Islam can provide cultural identity, economic benefits and the political greatness and honor of Muslims and Islamic countries. Mr. Habibi continued: The same book [Koran], the same Prophet, and the same Qiblah are strong connections and guarantee the unity of all Muslims.

Next, Mr. Shaykh Bin-Hamad Khalifah Al Thani, the Qatari crown prince, praised the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in support of Islamic countries and said: We honor your righteous stance and your continued support of the people of Palestine for the recovery of usurped lands, especially noble Qods.

Mr. Velayati, the foreign affairs minister, and Shaykh Bin-Hamad Khalifah Al Thani, the Qatari crown prince, discussed and reviewed the two countries' agreements in various fields and the most important bilateral issues in a meeting this morning.

Expansion of the two countries cooperations in international issues, and also [expansion of cooperation] between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council were among the issues discussed at that meeting.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0911214791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Shaykh Bin-Hamad Khalifah Al Thani, the Qatari Crown Prince, and his accompanying delegation, on Saturday evening. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, underlining the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy based on friendship and profound trust with the Persian Gulf littoral states, said: In the past too, Iran adhered to this very policy, and in spite of the variety of resources available in the countries of the region, the current global situation warrants further strengthening of the existing friendship and cooperation amongst the countries of the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran can establish extensive cooperation with the countries of the region by virtue of the plentiful resources and expert manpower at its disposal.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president pointed to the issue of Palestine and the shameful Madrid conference, and said: Had there been unity amongst the countries of the region, the global arrogance would not have been able to enter the scene of action aimed at infringing on the right of the oppressed Palestinian people, in the interest of the Qods occupying regime; thus the Muslim Arab countries would not have been forced to sit at the negotiating table with their age-old enemy under such unequal conditions.

Expressing his regret at the adverse conditions created in the region as a result of Iraq's violation of Kuwait, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that the countries of the region will take long strides toward enhancing their cooperation and friendship.

At the meeting, at which Messrs. Habibi, the first vice president, and Velayati, were also present, the Qatari crown prince submitted a written message from the amir of Qatar. This included an official invitation extended to our president to visit that country. He then expressed his delight at visiting Iran, and underlining the growing ties with our country, he said: We have held extremely productive talks with the Iranian authorities, and agreements have been signed in economic, commercial, and cultural fields.

Thanking our country's president for his remarks, the Qatari crown prince pointed to the Palestine issue, and said: We are aware that you have even endured incarceration for supporting the Palestine issue, and have been placed under pressure for your firm adherence to your stance. Qatar's stance in this regard is based on the achievement of the just rights of the Palestinian people.

Joint Communique Issued

LD1011130691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] A joint communique was issued, simultaneously in Iran and Qatar, at the end of the visit by the Qatari crown prince to our country, to which I draw your attention:

The statement stresses unanimity of stance vis a vis various issues, particularly those concerning the honor and dignity of the Islamic umah, as well as solving Islamic nations problems justly.

In the statement the two sides emphasize that the interest of the countries of the region are best served if the security and stability in the region is maintained by the countries of the region. They also place emphasis on honoring their commitments concerning each others borders and international agreements.

They also called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in all the world's countries. They announced that the arming of the Zionst regime with such weapons would pose the greatest threat to the peace and security of the region and the world.

The world oil market situation, as well as production and pricing, were also reviewed by the two sides and emphasis was placed on OPEC member countries' cooperation and their commitments to the decisions of that organization, such as the quota system.

Concerning international relations, the two countries expressed their complete happiness about the end of the cold war and the consequent fresh opportunities that have come about in international relations. They expressed hope that those fresh opportunities bring about an end to crises in other parts of the world and that regional problems are solved peacefully and justly, and international peace and security is strengthened.

On relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the two sides termed the strengthening and deepening of cooperation between the member countries of the council and the Islamic Republic of Iran in various fields, as well as supporting fraternal relations between the countries of the region, as foundations on which the countires of the region can build regional security and stability.

On bilateral relations, the two countries announced their readiness to expand their ties. Five bilateral agreements were signed in that regard on cooperation in the fields of education, social and labor affairs, air transportation, trade transfer, economic and technical cooperation, and the transfer of fresh water.

Signs 5 Agreements; Departs

LD1011113191 Tehran IRNA in English 1019 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—Visting Qatari Crown Prince Shaykh Bin-Hamad Khalifah Al Thani and the accompanying delegation wound up a 4-day official visit to Tehran before noon Sunday.

Al Thani was seen off by First Vice President Hasan Habibi and the ministers of foreign affairs, labour, education and road and transportation.

The Qatari crown prince and Habibi in their final round of talks Sunday morning signed five agreements for cooperation in the fields of education, labour, air transportation, trade and economy and transfer of Iranian fresh water to the shaykhdom.

While in Iran Al Thani also held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and a number of other high-ranking officials.

Meanwhile, Qatari Minister of Education 'Abdallah al-Turki in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad 'Ali Najafi called for expansion of educational and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

The Iranian minister welcoming the proposal said that the Islamic republic was interested in cultural and educational cooperation with the Islamic countries, the regional states in particular.

Majles Committee Proposal for Egypt Ties Viewed

Commentary: No Change in Relations

LD0911095591 Tehran IRNA in English 0852 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—Iran's relations with Egypt should be kept at the present interest section level and promotion of ties with Cairo would not be interpreted in the Arab world or by Muslim public opinion as a mere expansion of relations, maintains JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in an editorial comment today.

"This issue concerns out revolutionray prestige and Islamic cause and to preserve this prestige and cause has preference to any other interest," it stressed.

Regretting a recent proposal by the Majles foreign relations committee to resume diplomatic ties with Cairo, the paper noted that if the organizers of the Madrid "peace" conference had spent millions of dollars to encourage a voice to be echoed from the Islamic world in support of Egypt, they would have certainly failed.

The idea was raised by Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani, the head of the foreign relations committee of the Majles recently. Some members of the committee later made it clear that his remark was a personal view and did not reflect their stance as well. A number of other MPs [members of parliament] also criticized Khorasani at the Majles for the proposal. But in defending his position, he said Iran should re-establish ties not only with Egypt but also with Morocco and South Africa.

"More regretable is that this voice has been raised from the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran—the heart of the Islamic world's bastion," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said in its editorial.

By taking part in the Camp David acord some 13 years ago, the Cairo government committed a big treason against the Palestinian aspiration, it said.

"A Majles which has organized the conference in support of the Palestinian revolution, could not endorse attempts aimed at resumption of ties with a government which has already committed a treason against the Palestinian cause," it added.

Tehran hosted a four-day conference in support of intifadah (Oct. 19-22) attended by a large number of leading Palestinian personalities and parliamentarian from Muslim states.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI urged the officials to take a sincere stand towards important issues concerning the interests of the Iranian people and principles of the revolution. It also called on them not to be impressed by their factional tendenies in expressing their views in favour or against such issues.

Majles Deputies Deny Media Report

NC1311123591 Tehran SALAM in Persian 30 Oct 91 p 2

[Text of letter signed by some Majles deputies sent to SALAM newspaper in Tehran—date not given]

[Text] In view of a mass media report published on behalf of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Islamic Majles, which concerned a Foreign Ministry recommendation to upgrade ties with Egypt and give priority to broadening relations with the Egyptian Government, we draw readers' attention to the following:

1. What was published and attributed to the committee has never been endorsed or approved by it and represents only the personal views of the head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Islamic Majles. The only concurrence was on maintaining relations as before; at the level of the office for protecting mutual Egyptian and Islamic Republic of Iran Government interests.
2. We believe that Egypt pioneered talks with despotic Israel, leading to the talks being held under the direct supervision of the world-devouring United States and culminating in the shameful Camp David accord.
3. Egypt was the first country to hoist despotic Israel's flag in an Arab country, in Cairo, an anti-Israeli center in the past. Egypt officially forged diplomatic and political ties with racist Israel.
4. At present the Egyptian Government is at the forefront of U.S. and Zionist plans in the Middle East, especially new U.S. peace plans which will materialize in the next few days as the so-called Arab-Israeli peace conference in Madrid. There, the aspirations and lands of the Palestinians will be officially sold off. The Egyptian Government is one of the conference's real nurturers, which is clear to all the world's Muslims. The Egyptian Government's stance on the Palestinian issue is to be abhorred and condemned.

Considering these clarifications, we did not nor do we believe in broadening relations, and hereby refute the disseminated report.

We believe the imam's utterances that the existence of Israel is illegitimate and it should be wiped out from the international scene.

[signed] Sadeq Khalkhali, Mohammad Ebrahim Asghazadeh, Salehabadi.

Japanese Envoy on Tehran's Role in Gulf Trade

LD0911164191 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—Japan's new ambassador here Tsuneo Oyake has underlined his country's support for peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region.

In an interview printed in the English-language daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Saturday, the Japanese ambassador noted that Tokyo shared interests with Tehran in this regard.

"Durable peace and security in this region cannot be attained without Iran," he said, noting that the Persian Gulf region can be a "more important partner for Japan in trade, investment and technology transfer."

The ambassador also commented on 'Keidanren', the industrial colossus of Japan, which has so far sent two delegations to Iran to assess investment possibilities, and the development of Qeshm Island free trade zone.

"Since last year, Keidanren has twice organized missions to Iran. The purpose was to invite attention and arouse the interest of the Japanese private sector in favor of Iran," he added.

The recent mission to Qeshm Island, comprised representatives of the Kobe steel firm which conceived a concrete design for a future project on the island, he said.

"The final decision by the investor would be made only after examining various aspects of the project, including the future status of the island and the availability of necessary energy, raw materials, markets and infrastructure," said Okaye.

Cited on Persian Gulf Security

LD1111161991 Tehran IRNA in English 1338 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 11, IRNA—No security arrangement in the Persian Gulf region is conceivable without Iran's presence, said Japan's new ambassador to Tehran Tsuneo Oyake in a meeting with First Vice-President Hasan Habibi here Monday.

Terming Iran as a powerful country in the region, the Japanese diplomat said that Tokyo is attentive to the role of the Islamic republic in the regional stability. He added that his task in Tehran would be to help promote Tehran-Tokyo bilateral ties.

Habibi said the Islamic republic since its establishment has favoured promotion of ties with the Asian countries including Japan.

Stressing that the presence of aliens in the Persian Gulf region has seriously threatened the security and tranquility in the region, he said Iran believes that in cooperation with her neighboring countries it can restore order and security in the region.

The neighboring countries are capable of defending each other provided that they trust one another, thus there would be no need for the presence of others in the region, Habibi underlined.

Zanganeh Appointed First Permanent Envoy to ICO

LD1011200491 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—Sabah Zanganeh was appointed the first permanent representative and ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). The proposal was made by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and approved by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Zanganeh called on the president on the eve of his departure for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia Sunday. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the meeting stressed the need for Iran's active presence at the OIC and called for a serious follow-up of the work of the future OIC meetings at various levels.

President Chairs National Security Council Meeting

NC1011084191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani chaired yesterday afternoon's Supreme National Security Council meeting. High-ranking military commanders and political advisers attended the meeting.

President: Women Long Way From Islamic Ideals

LD0911140191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met the members of the Central Council and the Executive Board of Her Holiness Zeynab Society this morning, on the eve of the anniversary of the birthday of Her Holiness Zeynab Kobra, God's blessing be upon her.

During the meeting, the president said: The Islamic Republic of Iran can be a model for women in Islamic countries in training, etiquette, education, social, political, and career activities, home management, and sports.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the important role played by women in various aspects of our country's Islamic society and said: Despite the fact that outstanding changes and significant developments have taken place in women's affairs since the revolution, but we are still some distance away from achieving the optimum level accepted by Islam, and to create fertile grounds for growth and development of Muslim and committed women according to the Koran. We hope to gradually shorten that distance.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the spare time that many housewives have, and said: Plans and projects should be presented to enable our country's committed women to play a more active role in the country's social and political activities with peace of mind.

In another part of his remarks, he pointed to illiteracy in society, particularly among women, as one of the country's problems. He said: Unfortunately, in some rural areas still people refuse to send their daughters to schools due to the prerevolution mentality still persisting in their minds.

At the end of his remarks, he placed emphasis on the high performance of women in society, particularly in training and university education, and expressed hope that committed women will be able to play a more active role in society.

At the beginning of the meeting, Ms. Behruzi, the secretary of the Zeynab Society, submitted a report on the formation and activities of the society's council.

Arms Smuggling Continues in Western Regions

LD0711202891 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad-e Gharb, Bakhtaran Prov., Nov. 7, IRNA—Two major bands dealing with smuggling of arms and explosives have been smashed in this western city by the security forces during the past few months.

During the operations 38 weapons, 15 grenades, 650 cartridges and 2,000 kg of explosives illegally held by the smugglers were confiscated, according to the local law enforcement department. It did not however disclose the number of those arrested.

Meanwhile, during the past few days the forces confiscated some forged banknotes in the city and arrested a number of smugglers in this connection.

Narcotics Procurement, Distribution Rings Smashed

LD1011214291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Law Enforcement Forces succeeded in smashing 16 drug procurement and distribution rings in the first half of Aban [month beginning 21 October] throughout the provinces of Sistan va Baluchestan, Fars, Ilam, Khorasan, and Kerman. All the active members of the said rings were arrested. In the course of the operations, carried out during the aforementioned period, altogether 75 smugglers—10 of whom were Afghans—were arrested, on whom 2,169 kg of an assortment of narcotics, 35 weapons, and 34 vehicles were found and seized.

Pakistan

Sharif Denies Helping Iran With Nuclear Reactor

BK1211114891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said Pakistan would welcome and cooperate with any proposal from any country willing to play a role in the resolution of Kashmir issue. He was asked by newsmen in Islamabad today to comment on Iranian president's offer for mediation to resolve the outstanding problems between Pakistan and India. The prime minister said Pakistan values the Iranian support to it on the Kashmir issue. He described the Iranian stand on Kashmir as courageous and principled.

He replied in negative when asked if Pakistan had helped Iran in the construction of any nuclear reactor.

Replying to a question, the prime minister said the judicial commission set up by him to probe opposition's allegations against his government in the cooperatives crisis would soon give its findings. The nation would then judge and give its verdict against those who are making baseless and wild allegations.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said his hands are clean and pointed out that he had on his own presented himself for accountability so that the truth is known [words indistinct]. He said he had done nothing wrong and would not accept any aspersion cast on his government. He said it is these very people who plundered public money during their rule and the references against them are now before courts of law. He said those who published the so-called Plunder of Pakistan were responsible for the surrender of Pakistan and also indulged in plunder of people's money.

President Seeks Ties With India on Equal Footing

BK1211152691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to promote friendly relations with India on the basis of equality and fair play. He said this while talking to outgoing Indian High Commissioner J.N. Dixit, who called on him in Islamabad today.

The president referred to the fast-changing situation in the world, including the cordial changes in international relations, and said this should create an awakening and wisdom in South Asian countries on the need to resolve their outstanding problems with a positive approach for peace and cooperation. Ghulam Ishaq Khan paid tribute to Dixit for his sincere efforts to promote good-neighborly relations between India and Pakistan.

The outgoing Indian high commissioner said he is grateful for the hospitality extended to him by the Pakistan Government and people during his tenure.